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# P A P E R S,

Collected, and Seriously Deliberated upon,

By a Number of LINEN-DRAPERS in and  
near LISBURN and BELFAST,

HUMBLY PRESENTED

To the Right Honourable and Honourable  
The Trustees of the Linen Manufacture,

AS MATERIALS FOR A

## LINEN-BILL;

And humbly submitted to their Consideration,

Preparatory to a New Act of Parliament for the  
better Order, Regulation, and Improvement  
of the said Manufacture.

March 2, 1762.

THE SECOND EDITION

With an Advertisement prefixed, shewing the  
Occasion of this Edition.

BELFAST:

PRINTED BY H. AND R. JOY.





to wrong or oppress the poor distressed People at home, or to im-  
pose upon the Merchants abroad, or in any Manner to carry on these  
Trade and Importations which in Time past have been so dangerous

to the Trade.  
A Paragraph was inserted in the Board, called  
"Observations on the Lined Trade", which the it contained many  
Things which we approved of, many indeed, which we ourselves

## Advertisement.

**A**S a second Impression of these Papers has been thought neces-  
sary to be made, it may be proper to say something with regard  
to the Occasion of it.

A FEW Manuscript Copies only were at first intended, to be pre-  
sented to the Board and to the Merchants: But as the Work became  
large, that Method was found inconvenient. It was besides judged  
that written Copies might not be so clear, nor so easy in the reading.  
—A few printed Copies were therefore ordered.

No more, however, were intended to be printed than the very  
Number that had at first been resolved on to be written. A greater  
Number was moved for; but the Majority feared it might be deemed  
a Presumption. In short, it was not designed that those Papers should  
appear in Publick; as the Trustees themselves had been pleased to  
order them, and as they were therefore principally intended to con-  
vey our Sense of Things to the Board only:—At least it was deemed  
improper that they should appear in any publick Manner, till they  
were received and approved of by the Trustees.

A few Copies were taken off accordingly; one of which was pre-  
sented to the Board in March last, and very favourably received.  
Copies were also presented to the Merchants of London, Dublin,  
Bristol, and Liverpool, for their Opinion; who unanimously concurred  
in approving of them, and of all that had been before done to  
enforce the Laws and reform the Trade. This will appear more at  
large from the Merchants Memorials, which are hereunto annexed.

It was soon after perceived, that a sufficient Number however had  
not been printed, as several Members of the Board, and other emi-  
nent Persons, applied for Copies, which we had not to furnish them  
with: It was therefore resolved to order a few more, in order to  
Answer those more particular Demands.

But as we are now informed, that there is like to be an Opposition  
against the intended Amendments of the Laws, and the further  
Establishment of the Orders and Institutions of the Board; we think  
it necessary to make this Paper more public than we intended, in  
order that our Reasons may be seen by ALL, for the Alterations we  
have taken the Liberty to advise.

We hope our Views in all we have offered, will appear to be pub-  
lic and upright; free from every Thing that is partial and selfish;  
particularly, that we want to have it put out of our Power, either

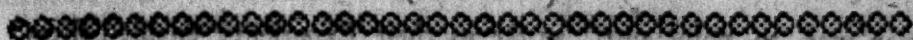


# ADVERTISEMENT.

to wrong or oppress the poor industrious People at home, or to impose upon the Merchants abroad, or in any Manner to carry on those Frauds and Impositions which in Time past have been so disgraceful to the Trade.

A Pamphlet was some Time ago presented to the Board, called "Observations on the Linen Trade," which tho' it contained many Things which we approved of, many indeed, which we ourselves had recommended, and which were expressly taken from Our Paper, yet it contained others, which we could not but highly disapprove of: We therefore thought it necessary to make some Remarks upon the same, in an Advertisement prefixed to some of the Impressions of this Work: But the most exceptionable Parts of that Paper, having since been sufficiently laid open, in another Paper which has since been presented to the Board, we think it unnecessary any longer to retain the Advertisement.

It may be necessary also to take Notice, that we have been favoured with a Copy of the first Draft of the intended Heads of a Bill, framed from the present Linen Laws, and from the several Materials which have been offered and collected; and we cannot but admire the solid Judgment which is displayed in selecting those Materials, and the uncommon Knowledge which is shewn in forming that excellent Bill. We are perfectly satisfied that the few Things that are omitted, of what is contained in the following Papers, are omitted for good Reasons: and we therefore look upon these Papers to be now of no further Use, than to set forth the Reasons upon which the several Alterations and Additions proposed by Us, and admitted in the Bill, are founded; in order that if any Attack should, in the Course of the Business be made upon any part of the Bill, our Friends (which we humbly hope are all those who are Friends to the Trade and the Public) may see those Reasons; and consequently be the better enabled to Judge, how far any particular Articles are intitled to their favourable Countenance and support; but particularly how far these are, which we confess to be our most favourite Points, *viz.* the SEALING OF BROWN LINENS and EXPOSING THEM TO SALE CRISPED AND IN OPEN FOLDS.



“ *Lisburn, February 15, 1763.*

“ **T**HE Right Honourable and Honourable the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture having signified to the Deputies appointed to support the Remonstrance against the late Linen Bill, their Desire of receiving from them, and the People in the Trade, such Materials for a new Linen Bill, as they might think conducive to the Welfare of the Manufacture:—To further this good Purpose, the Right Honourable the Earl of MOIRA was pleased to propose a Meeting of the Linen-Drapers of *Belfast and Lisburn*, in order to receive such Hints as might be suggested, and to settle the proper Methods for collecting and furnishing the Board with such Materials as they were pleased so to require: A Meeting was held here this Day, accordingly, and honoured with his Lordship's Presence.

“ And that they might not be wanting on their Part, when so properly called upon, They Resolved upon holding frequent Meetings for the Furtherance of this important Business; the first of which is to be again held here, on Saturday next, the 19th Inst. And they request, that such Friends as conveniently can, may then meet, cordially to deliberate upon such Hints as have been, or may further be given; and to omit nothing that may be proper to lay before the Board for the Advantage and further Improvement of the Manufacture. —”

The above was published in the BELFAST NEWS-LETTER.

**A**T a Meeting of Linen-Drapers at Lisburn on Saturday the 19th of February, 1763, by Adjournment, [Mr. JOHN STEWART in the Chair,] to consider of what might be thought proper humbly to offer to the Right Honourable and Honourable the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture, as Materials for a Linen Bill.

The first Duty that occurred to them was gratefully to acknowledge their Obligations to the Right Honourable and Honourable the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture, for their great Favour and Condescension, in inviting the People in the Trade thus to consult together, and to communicate the Result of their united Judgment and Experience with Regard to the Laws by which they are to be governed; which, as they esteem it the greatest Honour that has ever been done to the People concerned in the Manufacture, so they likewise deem it to be a Measure as wise as it is condescending; and humbly hope it will, in some Degree, tend to answer the good Ends and Purposes so kindly intended by the same.

They afterwards proceeded to settle the Method of pursuing the Business before them; and as they had been informed that the Honourable Board of Trustees intends the ensuing Session of Parliament to propose a general Repeal of all the old Laws, and to bring such as are proper to be continued, with some Alterations and Amendments, into one regular Body; The Method therefore fixed upon



upon was, to point out, (as far as their Experience enabled them to judge) what Clauses in the present Laws were become obsolete, or fit to be dropt; what Amendments were to be made in such as might be thought proper to be continued; and what new Additions were, in the present State of the Trade, become necessary;-----interspersing all along such Notes or Remarks as might seem needful to explain the Reasons of the proposed Alterations and Additions; following upon the whole, as much of a regular Order and Method as could safely be ventured upon, without breaking in too much upon the Order in which the several Matters were found to lie in the present Acts. They afterwards made some Progress in the Business, and then adjourned: Which Adjournment was published as before in the BELFAST NEWS-LETTER.

IN the further pursuing of the Business above-mentioned, Several Meetings of the Linen-Drapers were continued and held, (the Adjournments published as before) till the 24th of *February*, at *Drum*, [Mr. ALEXANDER LEGG in the Chair;] when the general Matter herein-after contained, which had before been freely debated, was unanimously agreed to; and the following Committee was appointed, to revise and prepare the same, to be laid before the next Meeting. Adjourned to the 2d of *March* at *Drum*.

The Committee appointed	{ FRANCIS BURDEN, HENRY BETTY, JOHN WILLIAMSON.	JOHN STEWART, ALEXANDER LEGG, JOHN HILL,
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**A**T a Meeting of the Linen-Drapers at *Drum* on Wednesday the 2d of *March*, by Adjournment [Mr. JOSEPH KELSO in the Chair:] The several Papers delivered to the Committee at the last Meeting to be prepared and revised, being by them produced, were again read, in the Form they now appear, and were finally and unanimously approved.

And as the pursuing the Method at first resolved upon necessarily swelled the Papers to such a Bulk as to make it impracticable, in the short Time allowed, to transcribe so many manuscript Copies as were wanted;—It was therefore agreed to be necessary to strike off a few Copies in Print. And they beg Leave to express their humble Hopes, that a Consideration of the various Nature of the Subject, as well as of the Difficulty of collecting and arranging Laws, by People quite inexperienced in such Matters, and fearful at the same Time of taking too great Liberties,—will induce a favourable Allowance for any Mistakes or Omissions which may have been made. And as the MATTERS which are herein after treated of, have been principally attended to, and the People concerned having neither Time nor Abilities to be very exact with Regard to the MANNER, it is humbly hoped all favourable Allowances will be made; and that the great Importance of the THINGS treated of, will divert the Attention from the imperfect MANNER in which it is feared they will be too often found to be treated.

FLAXSEED *and* Hempseed.

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WE Humbly Recommend,

**T**HAT the Encouragement given for raising Flaxseed of our own Growth, be continued.

That the Bounty for importing Flaxseed of the Growth of the British Plantations, be also continued; and that as a farther Encouragement, the Duty on Importation be taken off.

And that the several Clauses following, copied, with some Alterations, from the British Acts relating to Flaxseed, be introduced; as it appears to us, that in these Clauses the proper Means are provided for carrying the Law into Execution, which were not by the first Clause of the late Linen Bill so provided. And as we also conceive there are some Things too severe in the British Statute, we have, therefore, in the Alterations, attempted to soften the same.

*Copy of the British Clauses referred to.*

“ THAT from and after the no  
Person or Persons shall import, or cause to  
be imported, into any Port or Place of this  
B Kingdom,



*Flaxseed and Hempseed.*

Kingdom, any bad, mixed, or damnified Flaxseed, or Hempseed; and that from and after the      all Flaxseed and Hempseed, that shall be imported into any Part of this Kingdom, shall be fresh and good, without Mixture.

“ And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after the said      no Person or Persons, shall vend, sell or expose to Sale, within any Port or Place in this Kingdom, any mixed or damnified Flaxseed, or Hempseed; and that no Person or Persons, do presume to mix, or cause to be mixed, different Parcels of Flaxseed or Hempseed, of different Countries or Growths together; and that from and after the said      every Person who shall sell or vend any Parcel or Parcels of Flaxseed or Hempseed, within any Part or Place of this Kingdom, shall together with said Parcel or Parcels, deliver to the Buyer in writing, a particular Account of the Parcel of Flaxseed or Hempseed, sold by him; expressing the Quantity thereof, the Place from whence the same was imported, or where it grew, and the Year of its Growth; to the End, that if the Seller shall have been guilty of any Fraud, he may be the more easily convicted, and subjected to the Penalties herein-after expressed.

“ And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after the said      all and every Person and Persons, who shall sell or expose to Sale, bad or damnified Flaxseed, or Hempseed, or who shall mix what is left of the Flaxseed or Hempseed of the former Year with  
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what is imported in a subsequent Year, or shall mix different Parcels of Flaxseed or Hempseed together, or who shall sell Flaxseed or Hempseed of a different Growth or Age, from what he, she, or they, have expressed at the Sale, in the Account to be given in writing, as aforesaid, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, shall upon being duly convicted thereof, in Manner hereafter mentioned, for every such Offence, forfeit the said Flaxseed, or Hempseed, so sold or exposed to Sale, or the Price thereof; and likewise a Sum not exceeding five Pounds Sterling, nor less than fifty Shillings, for every Hogsheaf of Flaxseed or Hempseed, so sold or exposed to Sale, and so in Proportion for every greater or lesser Quantity.

“ And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all and every Person and Persons, who shall import, or cause to be imported, into any Port or Place in this Kingdom, any bad, mixed or damnified Flaxseed, or Hempseed, he and they shall for every such Offence, forfeit such Flaxseed or Hempseed, and shall also be subject and liable to a Penalty not exceeding three Pounds Sterling, for every Hogsheaf of such Seed, and so in Proportion for any less Quantity.

“ Provided always, and it is hereby enacted, that if all or any such damnified Flaxseed, or Hempseed, shall be only damaged in the Conveyance by Sea, the Importer, or Importers, Proprietor or Proprietors thereof, shall not be liable or subject to the said Forfeiture, or Penalty, in Case he or they shall immediately, upon  
on



on the landing of such Seed, produce sufficient Proof before some Justice of the Peace or other Magistrate, that such Damage was occasioned as aforesaid; and give sufficient Security, as soon as may be, unto the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture, that such Seed shall not be sown, but shall be made into Oil or exported; under the Penalty of five Pounds for every Hogshead of such damnified Seed, and so in Proportion for any less Quantity.

“ Provided also, and be it enacted, that if any Flaxseed, or Hempseed of the Growth of this Kingdom shall be bad, damnified, or otherwise improper and unfit for sowing, the Proprietor or Proprietors thereof shall not be subject or liable to any Penalty or Forfeiture inflicted by this Act, for the selling or exposing to Sale, any bad or damnified Flaxseed, or Hempseed, in Case he shall, before he shall sell such Seed, or expose the same to Sale, give sufficient Security to said Trustees, that such Seed shall not be sown, but made into Oil, or exported; under the Penalty of five Pounds for every such Hogshead of such Seed, and so in Proportion for any less Quantity.

“ And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all and every Person and Persons, who shall sell and deliver to any one Buyer at one Time, ten or more Pecks, or any larger Quantity of Flaxseed, or Hempseed, without delivering therewith a Certificate subscribed by such Person or Persons; expressing the Quantity and Price of the Seed, and if the same shall be of foreign Production, the Port from whence the same

same was imported, and the Name of the Country where it grew, and the Year of its Growth; and if such Seed shall be of the Produce of this Kingdom, the Year of its Growth and the Name of the County where it grew; such Person or Persons shall forfeit a Sum not exceeding five Pounds, nor less than fifty Shillings Sterling for every Hoghead of such Seed, and so proportionably for any less Quantity."

In this and all other Clauses where it is not specified how the Penalties and Forfeitures are to be disposed of, we suppose it may be best to leave them to the disposal of the Trustees to do with them as they may think proper.

**FLAX** *and* Hemp.

WE Humbly Recommend,

THAT the 2d Sect. of 19th George II. be altered as follows :

" And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after the            Day of            no Flax or Hemp shall be steeped or watered in any River, Stream, Brook, or Running Water, but in Trenches, Holes, or Pits, made so near such Running Water, or in such Places, as that they may be supplied with fresh Water at all needful Times, without letting any of the Water impregnated by the Flax run into, or mix with the River, &c. till after the first Day of October in each Year, unless there shall happen sooner to be a Flood in such River, &c. to carry



it off, without corrupting the Running Water (1); and that all Flax and Hemp steeped or watered, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning hereof, shall be forfeited to such Person or Persons as shall seize the same, and inform thereof in Manner herein-after mentioned."


(1) The Person watering the Flax, and the Owner of the Ground, should be also made subject to some Penalty to observe this.

There is great Need of some such Amendment of this Law, and of some Method being taken to enforce it. The greatest Part of the Flax in this Country is watered in Running Water, in open Contempt of the Laws; and the Flax is thereby much hurt, and some of it quite spoiled: Besides, when any Floods happen when the Flax is a-watering, a great Part of it is liable to be carried off and quite lost. The Mischief too it does by corrupting and poisoning the Waters, especially in dry Seasons when there is very little Water in the Rivulets and Brooks, is intolerable: It makes it very unfit for Use, and hurtful to the Health of the People who use it; it breeds Disorders amongst the Cattle, and oftentimes deadly ones; it also destroys the Fish, so that there will soon be none left, especially in the smaller Rivers; and it does incredible Damage to the Bleach-Greens, by blackening and corrupting the Water used in whitening the Linens. It was suggested by some, That if the Trustees would give some small Matter in Premiums, for one Year, or two, to whoever would make the best Watering-Trenches, and which would water the largest Quantity of Flax, in Places proper for them, it probably would be of much Service; and the Method being pointed out, many would thereby be set on doing the same. When these were once made, the Owner might keep them for public Use, take so much a-Load for Liberty to sleep in them; and have a Way to let the Water in, and again to run off, at proper Times. The Method would soon be established, for the People would soon find their Account in it.

But lest this might not be thought proper, another Method for encouraging such Watering-places was proposed, viz. That a Bounty should be given of a certain small Sum, to the Owner of such Watering-places (suppose a Sixpence for every Car-load of Flax or Hemp) which he shall permit to be steeped; which Bounty to be ascertained before a Magistrate by the Oaths of the Proprietors of the Water and Flax; the Money to be laid on the Parish by a Vestry, along with the Parish Expences, and therewith

therewith levied by the Church-Wardens or Sidesmen. This with some small Matter which would readily be given by the Proprietor of the Flax or Hemp, would, it is thought, be sufficient Encouragement for the making proper Places to steep in.

But lest in any particular Places, the before mentioned Expedients should not have the designed Effect, and in order also to interest such Persons as have the proper Places for steeping in as aforesaid, and to make a proper Use of the same; It was further proposed, that some such Clause as the following should be inserted in the Act.

 We presume not to attempt the proper Manner of wording such Clauses, either in this or any other Instance. We only mean to convey the Matter we propose in such Words as seem to be most expressive of the Meaning.

And to the End that no Person or Persons may presume to break this Law, thro' the Pretence of wanting proper Places to water Flax or Hemp in; We pray it may be enacted, "That any Person having Flax or Hemp to water, may apply to any of his Neighbours who possesses Ground in which there is any Collection of Waters, or thro' which there runs a River or Rivulet, on the Banks of which may be made proper Trenches, Holes, or Places for watering Flax or Hemp, without doing any uncommon Damage thereby, or without going thro' any Demain, Garden, Orchard, Meadow, or Ground improved with Hedge-rows, Planting, or other considerable Improvements; and if such Person cannot agree with the Owner of the Ground for the Damage to be done, by watering the same, that he may call the sworn Appraisers of the Parish, who may be authorised to view the Ground, and point out the properest Place, and to value the Damage that may be done; which Damage being paid, or a Tender thereof made to the Owner  
of



of the Ground, that the Person owning the Flax or Hemp, may enter on such Ground therewith, and do every Thing necessary for watering the same; doing as little Damage on the Premisses as may be; and if the Owner of the Ground thinks there is more Damage done than need have been, or than was provided for, that he may again call the same Appraisers to view the same, and whatever more they value it to, that the Owner pay the same before he carries off the Flax. Provided, however, that if the Owner of such Ground does not chuse to have such Entry made thereon, and can procure Liberty for watering such Flax or Hemp from any other Person in the Neighbourhood, who may have Ground in which it may as conveniently, or near as conveniently be watered; in this Case, that the Owner of the Flax or Hemp, shall not make such Entry, but may carry it to the Place where such Liberty shall be obtained.

“ And in Case the Proprietor of the Land will neither grant nor procure Liberty to water such Flax as aforesaid, in that Case he may be made liable to a Penalty of about a Shilling for every Load so refused, to be paid to the Owner of the Flax. Provided (to prevent any Appearance of Hardship) that no one Person shall pay above ten Shillings upon the Whole in any one Year, as Penalties for refusing to grant Liberties to enter on his Ground to water Flax as aforesaid. ,

The Method of granting Premiums to People who will make such Watering-places for Flax, was unanimously approved of; but the proposed Clause, which grants People a Privilege to enter

enter into another Person's Ground, and there make such Watering-places, was by some feared might be deemed as a Hardship by those who would not chuse to have their Lands entered upon. But as the Grievance arising from Watering Flax in Running Water, calls aloud for Redress, We therefore have thought fit humbly to mention both these Methods, believing that if both passed into a Law, the one would strengthen the other;—that the proposed Clause would only tend to encourage such Watering-places to be made where proper and convenient Situations appeared for the Purpose; and that, consequently, so many would soon be made, as that there would be few or no Instances of any Persons having Occasion to claim the Privilege granted in the Clause of entering Lands where such Watering-trenches were not made; especially as the Damages, Appraiser's Bill, &c. must in that Case be paid to the Owner of the Land by the Person claiming such Privilege.

*Cordage, Thread, Tapes, Laces, &c.*

IN this Article we are not well acquainted, but we suppose,

THAT Sect. 4th of the 19th of Geo. II. should be continued.—“And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons in making Twine, Ropes or Cordage, shall mix or cover any old Hemp, or hempen Yarn within new Hemp, or shall mix or work up together any flaxen Tow and Hemp, or shall sell or expose to Sale, any Ropes, Twine or Cordage, made up of old and new Hemp, or of Hemp or flaxen Tow, upon Pain of forfeiting the Sum of ten Shillings, for every Parcel of such Twine, Ropes or Cordage, that shall be made up, to the Informer.”

2. And that Sect. 5th of the 19th of Geo. II. should also be continued.—“And be it enact-



ed by the Authority aforesaid, That all Thread, whether white or coloured, and all Bobs made of double flaxen Yarn, shall be reeled on a Reel of forty four Inches, or more, in Circumference, and shall be divided into Skains, each Skain containing Twelve Threads; and that all Tapes, commonly called Diaper, and twilled Tapes, shall be made up in Pieces, each Piece containing twelve Yards or upwards in Length; and that all fine plain Tapes, whether white or red, shall be made up in Pieces, each Piece containing twenty four Yards or more; and that all Tapes, commonly called Chats, Inckles and Filletting, shall be made up in Pieces, each Piece containing in Length thirty six Yards, and that such Chats shall contain thirteen Threads in Breadth, Inckles shall contain twenty one Threads in Breadth, narrow Filletting shall contain thirty three Threads in Breadth, and broad Filletting shall contain forty nine Threads in Breadth or more, and all Breads, Ferretting and Shoe-Lace, made of flaxen Yarn, or of such Yarn mixed with Silk or Worsted, shall contain in Length eighteen Yards, or more, in each Piece; and all Thread Laces, commonly called Points, shall contain sixteen Threads, or more, in Breadth; and all white Bobbin made in single flaxen Yarn, shall contain twenty four Yards in Length in each Piece, and all Bobbin made of double flaxen Yarn, shall contain in Length twelve Yards in each Piece; and if any Person or Persons shall sell or expose to Sale any Thread, Tapes, Chats, Inckles, Filletting, Breads, Ferretting,

retting, Shoe-Lace, Points or Bobbin whatsoever, that is not conformable to the Lengths, Breadths and Rules aforesaid, or if the same or any of them be found in the Custody or Possession of any Weaver, Shop-keeper, Petty Chapman or Retailer, then and in such Case the same shall be forfeited to such Person or Persons as shall seize the same, and inform thereof in Manner herein after mentioned."

## Y A R N.

WE Humbly Recommend,

THAT Sect. 8th of the 19th of George II. be continued, with the following Alterations; and also Sect. 9th and 10th, viz.

"And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all Linen Yarn that shall be sold or exposed to Sale within this Kingdom, shall be [well and sufficiently spun, and] made up in Hanks or Dozens, each Hank or Dozen consisting of twelve Cutts and no more, and that every such [Cutt \*] shall contain one hundred and twenty Threads, and no more; and that all the Yarn contained in every such Hank or Dozen shall be Flaxen Yarn only, or Tow Yarn only of the same Colour and Fineness, and that every such Hank or Dozen shall be one Yard and a Quarter in Length, and no more, that each Cutt in every such Hank or Dozen, shall be separated as the  
same

\* [Hank or Dozen] in the printed Act by Mistake.



same shall be reeled, and not afterwards, and that in the Reeling of such Linen Yarn, no more than one Thread at a Time shall be reeled, and that the Standard Reel of this Kingdom shall be two Yards and an half in Circumference; and every Hank or Dozen of all Linen Yarn which shall be sold, exposed to Sale, or found in the Possession or Custody of any Spinner, Maker, or Reeler of Linen Yarn, or of any Person or Persons following the Trade or Occupation of a Yarn-Buyer, or of any Person or Persons in Trust for them or any of them, which shall not be Reeled and made up according to the Directions aforesaid, shall be forfeited to such Person or Persons as shall seize the same, and inform thereof in Manner herein-after mentioned.

“ Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend to subject any cleansed or bleached Linen Yarn, or any Linen Yarn commonly called Head or Pound Yarn, which shall not exceed two Dozen in the Pound Weight, or which shall not exceed the Value of Sixteen-pence the Pound, to any Seizure or Forfeiture which shall be found in the Possession or Custody of any Person, not being a Spinner, Maker or Reeler of such Linen Yarn, or not being a Pedlar, or a Person commonly called a Grey Merchant.

“ And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Person or Persons, in the Fairs and Markets of this Kingdom, to make use of Scales and Weights, but not Ouncils, in order to distinguish

tinguish and ascertain the Sort or Denomination of Yarn, whether the same be of this or that Dozen to the Pound."

As the 10th Sect. prohibiting the Use of Ouncils in the weighing of Yarn, is not at all obeyed, it is humbly proposed that a Penalty of ten Shillings be annexed to it.

To continue Sect. 7th of 31st of George II.  
" And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that any Person or Persons, who shall knowingly expose or offer to expose to Sale in publick Market, Head or Pound Yarn, under two Statutable Dozen in the Pound, grey, purged, or white; fraudulently made up with entangled bad or coarse Yarn concealed in the Hanks, or where it appears damped with Water, or Salt and Water, or any other Ingredient to increase the Weight, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit to the Informer the Sum of forty Shillings."

To continue Sect. 5th of 33d of George II.  
" And whereas it is found by Experience, that the Snap-reel for reeling Cotton Yarn, as required by an Act passed in the thirty-first Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, is too large, and the Threads to each Lay or Cut are too many: Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after the first Day of August, one thousand seven hundred and                      it shall and may be lawful for any Reel-maker to make, or cause to be made, or any Spinner to use any Snap-reel for reeling Cotton Yarn, of not less than forty nine Inches and an half in the Circumference, and to make up any Skains of Cotton

any  
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ton Yarn, not containing less than seven Lays or Cuts in each Skain, and fourscore Threads to each Lay or Cut; any Thing in the said Act of the thirty first Year of the Reign of his present Majesty to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding."

To take in, the 2d Clause of the late Linen-Bill, so far as it is not a Repetition of any Part of the above:---" And we pray it may be further Enacted, that from and after all Linen Yarn which shall be sold or exposed to Sale as Pound-Yarn, shall be made into Hanks not exceeding one Pound weight in each Hank, and shall be regularly divided into Cuts, without being Cross-reeled, or damp, or wet, or combed, or any Way fraudulently bleached or whitened; . . . . And that no Allowance shall be made to the Buyer of Pound-Yarn in the Weight of such Yarn for its being damp or fraudulently made up on any Pretence whatsoever, upon Pain that every Offender in the Premises shall forfeit all such Yarn, and to the first real Informer a Sum of Money according to the Rate of five Shillings for every Pound weight of such Yarn.

And we further pray,

That as drying Yarn over Fires, to make it light, is highly prejudicial to the Yarn, such Practices should be discouraged by a severe Penalty. And that Inspectors may be appointed (by the Trustees) to seize unlawful, insufficient and faulty Yarn; and to see that the Laws with regard to Yarn be obeyed,

Yarn is grown very bad—ill spun, and spun beyond the Staple of the Flax. The Weavers, therefore, are very wretched, and yet the Trade will not afford to raise their Prices; so that there seems to be no Remedy for them but to get the Yarn better made. This would be a compleat Relief to them, and the highest Improvement to the Manufacture. A Sum of Money, therefore, judiciously laid out in Premiums for the best Yarn, would be excellently well employed; and perhaps something of this Kind is now become absolutely necessary.

And we further pray it may be enacted,  
That from and after                    no Yarn shall be made up, or exposed to Sale, in what is generally known by the Name of the Rope Way; but shall be made up, sold and exposed to Sale either in the Link Way, or in the four-fold Way, so that the Yarn may be fairly seen and examined; under Penalty of forfeiting to the first Informer all such Yarn as shall be so sold or exposed to Sale made up in any Manner contrary to the Directions aforesaid.

The Quality of the Yarn cannot be so well known by the Purchaser, when it is made up in the Rope-way. Besides, the Yarn is much damaged and broken by twisting it in that Manner. And as any other Method of making up Yarn, is as easy as this Way, we think these Reasons are sufficient to determine against it.

And we further pray,  
That to abolish the great Evils arising from Yarn-Jobbing----All Buyers of Yarn to sell again, be licensed by the Trustees.—Those who presume to buy and sell Yarn without Licence, to forfeit the Yarn so bought and sold.—If the Value bought be above five Pounds, to be fined in a Sum equal to the Value---if less, to be put in the Stocks.

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The Jobbers or Forestallers of Yarn, are at present grown an intolerable Nuisance ;---and there are Swarms of them in every Market. They are of great Detriment to the Manufacture in general, but particularly to the poor Weavers ; by encouraging and vending bad and fraudulent Yarn ; by drying it over Fires to make it light, thereby doing it great Injury ; and by forestalling the Markets, and biting and preying upon the poor People. Accordingly, the Manufacturers and Weavers in and about Lisburn petitioned the Board for some Remedy against them ; and have applied to the Merchants to back their Petition ; which they most humbly and heartily do, hoping the Methods they have taken the Liberty of pointing out will relieve the poor People and the Manufacture in this particular Case, from a real and very considerable Grievance.

And we further humbly pray,  
That the Duty upon all Linen Yarn imported into this Kingdom be taken off.

The Duty upon Linen-yarn imported here is but small ; but all Duties laid upon such unwrought, or but half-wrought Materials, as may at any Time be wanted to carry on a Manufacture, must, so far as they tend to hinder the Importation of such Materials, be hurtful to that Manufacture. Foreign Yarn, however, has been seldom wanted by us ; nor can it ever be wanted, but when the Scarcity is occasioned by Failures in our Crops of Flax. At such Times the Importation of Yarn should rather be encouraged by Bounties, than discouraged by Duties. Ordinarily our own Yarn is more than sufficient for our several Manufactures of Linen, and cheaper than any that can be imported : Very large Quantities, therefore, are still sent to England, though the Duty upon foreign Yarn, brought in there, is now taken off : The taking off the Duty here also, could never do any Harm, but might sometimes do much Good : At such a Time, for Instance, as the present, when many Weavers, thro' Scarcity of Yarn and Work, are going off to America, and many of them are begging or starving, and the Brown Linens risen to a greater Price than the White often sell for. A Liberty to import British or foreign Yarn, therefore, Duty-free, would at such a Time as the present be very seasonable ; and would not only tend to relieve the poor Weavers, but would also be of much Service to the Manufacture.

CLOTH,

## CLOTH, &amp;c.

WE Humbly Propose,

THAT Sect. 11th of 19th Geo. II. with the following Alterations, be continued:

“ And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Linen Cloths made and manufactured in this Kingdom, shall be of some one of the Breadths hereafter mentioned, (that is to say) all plain Linen Cloth shall be in Breadth throughout each Piece when whitened [either full Half Ell or twenty-two Inches and a half; or full Half-Ell and Nail; or full Three-Quarters of a Yard; or full Seven-Eighth Parts of a Yard; or full Seven-Eighths and Nail; or full Yard; or full Yard and Nail; or full Yard and Half-Quarter; or full Yard and Quarter; or full Yard and Half.] And that all Diapers and Damasks when whitened, shall, throughout each Piece, be of some one of the Breadths aforesaid; or full Yard and Three-Quarters; or full Two Yards; or full two Yards and one Quarter; or full two Yards and Half; or full Two Yards and Three-Quarters; or full Three Yards; or full Three Yards and a Quarter; or full Three Yards and Half; or full Three Yards and Three-Quarters; or full Four Yards wide. And that all Tickens shall throughout each Piece, be in Breadth full Half-Yard; or full Half-Ell; or full Three-Quarters of a Yard; or full Seven-Eighth Parts of

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of a Yard; or full one Yard; or full Yard and Quarter; or full Yard and Half; or full Yard and Three-Quarters; or full Two Yards wide. And that every Piece of Diaper, consisting of Three-Quarters of a Yard or Twenty-seven Inches in Breadth, and under one Yard or Thirty-six Inches in Breadth, shall contain Twenty-six Yards in Length at the least; and that each Piece of Diaper containing One Yard and an Half in Breadth or upwards, shall contain Twelve Yards in Length at the least: That each Piece of Ticken under one Yard and an Half in Breadth, shall contain Fifteen Yards in Length at least; and that each Piece of Ticken which shall be Six Quarters or above in Breadth, shall contain Six Yards in Length at the least: And that every Piece of Canvas or Sail-Cloth made in this Kingdom, shall contain Thirty-six Yards in Length at the least. And that no Person shall sell or expose to Sale any Linen Cloth, Diaper, Damask, or Tickens, not conformable to the Dimensions aforesaid, or not made up as herein-before is directed, upon Pain of forfeiting to the Informer such Sum, not exceeding Forty Shillings, as shall be determined by the Person or Persons hereinafter impowered to hear and determine such Offence."

To this may be added, if thought necessary, the proper Breadths (with which we are not sufficiently acquainted) for Kentings, Cambricks, Lawns, Cottons, Cheques, Handkerchiefs, &c.  
With

With Regard to which last, it might be proper to take in the 6th Clause of the late Linen Bill; taking Notice at the same time, that in all Pieces of Handkerchiefs intended to be Bleached, each Handkerchief should be made a Twelfth Part, or about a Nail, more in the Breadth of the Piece, than the Length of each Handkerchief, as every Piece goes so much in, of the Breadth, in the Bleach, and nothing in the Length; so that, without this Provision, Handkerchiefs properly made for Bleaching, would be liable by this Clause as it now stands to Forfeiture when Brown, and every Piece of Handkerchiefs originally made as the Clause directs would be liable to Forfeiture when Bleached; as each Handkerchief would then become two or three Inches more in the Length than in the Breadth.

To take in Sect. 4th of the late Linen Bill, altered as follows:

“ And we pray it may be Enacted, That from and after the                      no Weaver shall weave, nor any Person whatsoever shall sell or expose to Sale, or shall pack up or enter for Exportation, any Piece of plain Linen or stampen Cloth, or any Piece of plain Cloth made of Cotton Yarn, or of Cotton and Linen Yarn mix'd, which shall have any Fold finer or better than the rest, or which shall have any Mark in any Part thereof for a Lap-fold or Lap-yard, or which shall be thicker or finer on the Selvage than in the Body of the Piece, or which shall not be of equal  
Fineness



Fineness and Thickness throughout every Part of the Length and Breadth of such Piece, upon Pain of forfeiting to the first real Informer the Sum of twenty Shillings for every such Piece of Cloth that shall be woven, fold, exposed to Sale, packed up or entered for Exportation, as aforesaid.

To take in Part of the 9th Sect. of 33d Geo. II.

“ And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the no single Piece of Brown or unbleached Linen Cloth, of the Breadth of thirty-six or thirty-eight Inches, fold, or exposed to Sale, shall exceed twenty-five Yards in Length; and that no Double Piece of Brown or unbleached Linen Cloth of the Breadth aforesaid, fold or exposed to Sale, shall exceed fifty Yards in Length.----[We humbly apprehend that the Penalty, which is ten Shillings, should be laid upon the Buyer as well as the Seller, which will the more effectually make the Law be carried into Execution.]

We humbly think it would be proper, or rather indeed that there is an absolute Necessity, for dropping that Part of the 12th Section which relates to the Breadths of Cloths above 14 Hundreds.

The present Law requiring White Linen above 14 Hundreds to be 36 Inches broad, whilst they are no more than 38 when Brown, is in many Cases impossible; neither is it in most Cases necessary: The legal Penalties, therefore, as We humbly imagine, should be taken off, and we be left in the Power only of the Trustees, who will make an equitable Judgment in all such Cases. The legal Penalty on the Seal Masters by 33d Geo. II.

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is 51. for every Piece that does not come up to the Statute in this or in any other Particular; which is extremely hard, as far the greatest Part of our Linens do necessarily fall short of the Statute in this Particular. We humbly think it would be sufficient, to order the Breadth to be in all Cases stamped along with the Length, and fairly exposed to View, under a severe Penalty. This is all we think necessary (from the Experience we have had since the Sealing of Brown Linen commenced) to keep the Weavers and Manufacturers up to the proper Breadths also in their Brown Cloth.

The present Law to fix the Breadths, has been in Being for a long Course of Time; and yet, as is found by Experience, could never be executed; so that the continuing it under so heavy a Penalty, whilst at the same Time it was so little minded, only tended to cause People to make light of other Laws which might have been more easily obeyed.

Such also is the great Variety of Sleaving, and the different Methods of Working, by the Weavers, that they often cannot to any Degree of Nicety, determine the Breadths of their Cloths: And though all Brown Linen should be at, or above, the Standard, yet Experience shews, that this would not determiné the White Breadths.—The Bleacher knows well, that a fine slea'd Piece of Linen (the Kind more generally esteemed than any other) will shrink in the Breadths, in the same Bleach, from one to two Inches more than the coarse slea'd Piece. Add to this, that so various are the Methods made use of in the different Bleachyards, that one Bleachyard will make the Linens bleached therein two Inches narrower, on an Average, than another Bleachyard; though both are excellent at Bleaching at the same Time.

**THE METHOD** taken, since the Sealing of Brown Linens commenced, of stamping the Breadth on some conspicuous Part of the Web, has been found to answer the End of keeping Brown Linen to a good Breadth, more than any Penal Laws relative thereto, ever did. The continuing, therefore, of this Regulation, is thought highly necessary, and will, in all Probability, be a more eligible Method, than any Standard to fix absolutely the Breadths of Brown Linens.——And for a further Encouragement to keep all Linens up to their proper Breadths,

It is humbly proposed that it be Enacted,  
 “That all Half-yards, and Three-quarters, on  
 all Brown Linens of 14 Hundreds and upwards,  
 which are full 38 Inches wide, and on all Brown  
 Linens



Linens under 14 Hundreds that are full 36 Inches wide, shall be paid for; except where they exceed 25 Yards in Length, (there being at present a Law limitting all Brown Linens to that Measure at most.)

This also would prevent the cutting of Linens at the Ends, without doing Injustice to the poor Weavers and Manufacturers by taking such Half-yards and Three-quarters from them for nothing.

And on all White Linens, let the Number of Inches in the Breadth of each Piece be stamped close to the Figures expressing the Length, and exposed so as to be easily seen by the Buyer.

And we humbly imagine that the 14th Sect. empowering the Trustees to authorise their Officers to search for Narrow Linens, will, with the proposed Alterations, and with the Help of the Expedients mentioned in our Remarks, keep up Linens to a greater Breadth than at present; ---if the Trustees upon particular Examination judge a greater Breadth to be needful. And we would also propose to alter that Section in the Manner following:

“ And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Trustees herein-after mentioned, for the Time being, or any five or more of them, by Writing under their Hands and Seals, to authorise two or more of their Officers, from the Hours of ten of the Clock in the Morning to five in the Afternoon, to enter into the several Apartments of the Linen-Hall herein-after mentioned, and into all other Shops, Stalls and Places, wherein

wherein Linen Cloth shall be exposed to Sale, and in all Fairs and Markets in any Part of this Kingdom, and to seize all Linen Cloths which shall be in any Respect fraudulently made, or on which the Lengths and Breadths shall not be fairly stamped and exposed to View, or which shall have the outside Fold or Lap-yard, finer than the inside Folds, or at any less Distance than a Yard and a half from the End of the Piece, and to carry the same before the said Trustees or any Five of them, who are hereby required to condemn and cut every such Piece of Cloth into short Pieces, not exceeding seven Yards; which said short Pieces shall be delivered back to the Owner of the same, or his Order, such Owner paying to the said Trustees any Penalty not more than five Pounds nor less than ten Shillings, as they shall determine, for every Piece of Cloth so condemned and cut; the Money so forfeited to go to the Person seizing the said Cloth.

The extending the Power of Seizing, to the whole Kingdom, and with regard to every Kind of Disobedience and Fraud, is thought highly necessary; For we are not afraid of any Severity to be inflicted only in Cases of Frauds; Neither are we afraid of enlarging the Penalty in this Case, as it will be in the Power of the Trustees to modify the same according to the Nature of the Offence. And though it is hoped, as Things are now happily situated, that the Power here given will very seldom be of Use, but to be kept in terrorum; yet there may possibly arise Occasions where it may be very necessary, for the Improvement of the Manufacture, actually to make Use of it, by sending out the Trustees Officers into Fairs and Markets. This, therefore, upon any such Occasions may prevent, or destroy in their Bud, every Evil of the destructive Kinds that have in Time past prevailed, and have been so pernicious to the Trade.

And



And we pray that it may be enacted, That every Weaver shall across the End of every Piece of Cloth, by him, his Journeyman, or Apprentice, woven, weave or cause to be woven two coarse Threads, or Cords, distant about one fourth of an Inch; close to which on each End, he shall [write,] or cause to be written in a legible Manner, his Name at full Length, and the Parish and County in which he lives. And no Seal-master herein-after mentioned shall seal any Piece of Cloth which shall not have such coarse Threads or Cords, and Weaver's Name and Place of abode written on either End as aforesaid, unless the Weaver or Owner of such Piece produce Proof that the cutting off one of the Ends was occasioned by unavoidable Accident; upon Pain of forfeiting by such Lapper or Seal-master the Sum of twenty Shillings to the Informer.

These Cords, the Name, &c. will be a great Means to prevent Linens from being stolen, jobb'd, or forestall'd, or of discovering them when they are so: Instead of "stamp," say, "write," because most of the Weavers cannot get the first done, and therefore this Clause has never been minded; but all of them can do the last, or get it done; and therefore the Law will become more effectual.

And it is further proposed, to drop Sect. 33 of 19th George II. and in Place thereof, as more full to the Purpose, to insert Sect. 9th of 33d George II. altered as follows: "And whereas the Manner of folding Brown Linens for Sale encourages the Weaver to make different Parts of the same Piece very unequal in Fineness and Thickness, by which Means the Buyer is often deceived in the Value, and such Linen Cloth rendered

rendered useless to the Purpose for which it was intended by the Buyer: Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after the no Piece of brown or unbleached Linen Cloth shall be brought to any Fair or Market, or shall be sold or exposed to Sale, otherwise than Crisp'd and in open Folds, and no ways tied at either End, or in the Middle; and that every single Piece of such Linen Cloth shall be in Folds not exceeding 27 Inches in each; and that every double Piece of such Linen Cloth shall be in Folds not exceeding 36 Inches in each Fold: And that if any Person or Persons shall bring to any Fair or Market, or shall there sell or expose to Sale any such brown or unbleach'd Linen Cloth in anywise tied, or otherwise than crisp'd and in such open Folds as aforesaid, he, she or they shall forfeit to the Informer, the Sum of ten Shillings, for every Piece of such Linen Cloth, so by him, her or them brought to such Market or Fair, or there sold, or exposed to Sale as aforesaid: \* And if any Person or Persons shall buy or offer Money for any brown or unbleach'd Linen Cloth, in anywise tied, or otherwise than crisp'd and in such open Folds as aforesaid, he, she or they shall forfeit to the Informer the Sum of five Pounds for every such Piece of Cloth, so bought or offer'd Money for as aforesaid.

\* The Penalty being laid on the Buyer, as well as the Seller, is not only equitable in itself, but will make the Law become effectual.

We find the foregoing Clause to be essentially and absolutely necessary to the very Being of any Thing like a fair Trade, in this Part of the Kingdom, and through this whole Province;



the Breach of it in Time past having naturally, and almost necessarily, introduced the greatest Frauds and Abuses in the Trade. We therefore humbly beg, that, whatever Linens be excepted out of this Clause, none of ours may be excepted; and that the Force thereof may be carefully preserved with Respect to us, in any Exception that shall be thought necessary with Regard to other Parts, so as that none of our Manufacturers may have any Means afforded them to evade this most important Law. And we would recommend, from Experience, to every Gentleman who wishes well to any Place where the Linen Manufacture is newly introduced, to have this Clause insisted on, as absolutely essential to the Fairness, if not to the very Being, of the Trade, whatever small Difficulties in exposing Cloths to Sale Crisp'd, may be objected, or little Inconveniencies may be pretended on any other Account, arising from complying with that necessary Regulation.

To take in the 13th Clause of the late Linen Bill:—Altered as follows:

“AND we pray it may be further enacted, that from and after all Linen, Cotton, and Hempen Cloth, and all Cloths mixed with Linen, Cotton, and Hempen Yarn, shall be bought and sold by no other Measure but the Statute Yard, containing thirty-six Inches; and that no extraordinary Measure or Allowance, shall be made therein, by the Seller to the Buyer, or required, accepted of, or taken by the Buyer from the Seller, under Colour of any Agreement or Usage, or under any Pretence whatsoever; upon Pain that every Person or Persons so buying or selling such Goods contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, shall forfeit to the first real Informer, all such Goods so bought or sold; as also twenty Shillings Penalty for every such Offence.

R E E D.

## REED-MAKERS.

To continue Sect. 13th of Geo. II.---Altered as follows :

“ And that every Reed-maker, or other Person, making Reeds for weaving Linen Cloth, or Hempen Cloth, shall equally divide all the Splits in each and every Reed by him made ; and shall likewise set upon every such Reed by him made, a Mark with an Iron Brand, containing the first Letter of his Christian Name ; also his Sirname at full Length, in plain legible Characters ; upon Pain of forfeiting to the Informer the Sum of five Pounds for every Offence, in not equally dividing the Splits, or marking his Name as aforesaid.”

And we humbly propose, that no Reed-maker should get Leave to exercise that Business without a Licence from the Trustees ; because there are many following the Business of Reed-making who are not at all capable of that Trade, and therefore make bad and uneven Reeds, and consequently do a great deal of Mischief, as the Cloth woven in such Reeds must be also bad and uneven.

The Reed-makers, far from obeying the Law, have furnished the Weavers with the Instruments of the most scandalous Frauds ; nor are they afraid of being punished, for they evade one Part of the Law, by breaking the other : They never brand their Names on the Reeds ; and therefore, how fraudulently soever the Reeds are made, it cannot be found out who made them. The Fine should be so great as to prevent wholly the



the Evil; or if that cannot be done, to punish severely a Crime of so very evil Tendency, and greater in itself than some the Law deems Felony: And as the Offences admit of Degrees, perhaps it would be fittest that the Fine should be left to be determined by the Judges according to the Measure of each Offence. The Trouble of Licencing would not be great, as the Number of Reed-makers are comparatively few; one Master Reed-maker, with two or three Journeymen, can supply Reeds for above a thousand Weavers.

## WEAVERS and FLAX-DRESSERS.

WE Humbly Propose,

To continue the 6th and 7th Sections of the 19th Geo. II.

“ And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Flax-Dresser, Hemp-Dresser, professed Maker of Linen Wheels, and professed Maker of Hatchels, being a Protestant, shall be at Liberty to set up, and exercise his Trade, in any City, or Town-Corporate, within this Kingdom; and during his Residence, and following his Trade therein, shall be deemed and be a Freeman thereof.

“ Provided nevertheless, that no such Flax-Dresser or Hemp-Dresser, professed Maker of Linen Wheels, or professed Maker of Hatchels, shall have any Right to vote in the Election of any Magistrate for such City, or Town-Corporate, or of any Member to serve in this, or any future Parliament in this Kingdom, by Virtue only of such Freedom.”

To

To continue Part of Sect. 12th of 19th George II. altered as follows :

“ And be it enacted,---That no Weaver shall make Use of any Reeds in weaving any plain Linen Cloths of the Sett of fourteen Hundred, (commonly call'd fourteen Hundred Cloths) or upwards, that shall not be forty-one Inches long at least; upon Pain of forfeiting to the Informer the Sum of forty Shillings, for every Piece of such Linen Cloth by him woven in any Reed not forty-[one] Inches long at least.

The first Part of the above Section, concerning the Breadth of 14 Hundreds, &c. is dropt,---for the Reasons given in the Article of CLOTH, concerning Breadths: The continuing the Law for the Length of the Reeds, and the Seal-Matter marking the Breadth on the Back of the Web, is thought to be sufficient. The Direction for marking Hundreds, is also dropt; for if it were obeyed (which it never yet has been in this Kingdom) it would soon ruin the Manufacture, by tempting the Weaver to make the Cloth of more Hundreds than the Yarn was fit for, in order that it might get the Name of a higher Sett, or Number of Hundreds, and by that Means be deemed finer by the Ignorant: This Kind of Cloth, with a great Number of Hundreds in Proportion to the Fineness of the Yarn, is the ugliest Kind of Cloth that is made.

The Printer of the Act is highly to blame for the Error in the printed Act,---“Forty,” instead of Forty-one; Inches broad: There are several other Errors, but this was a very critical one; for as this printed Act is the only one the common People have seen, and they are willing to catch at the lowest Dimension mentioned, they have taken no Notice of the “Forty-one Inches” which is agreeable to the Act; but have all made their Reeds but Forty Inches broad; and not one in a thousand who does not think THAT the Breadth required by the Act--- This very Mistake has caused endless Trouble and Disputes about the Breadths of Webs, great Numbers of which were by this very Means about an Inch too narrow; and where they



they were not, the Linen was often spoiled by the Weaver setting his Warp too coarse, or using too coarse Weft, or both, in order to keep his Web up to the Breadth; and many dared not venture on the properest Methods of Setting and Westing their Linen, for Fear the Reed would not afford the proper Breadth: The Reed-Makers, therefore, should for the future be made to conform to the Law, not to this erroneous Copy of it: for tho' the stamping the Breadth on the Back of the Web, since the Sealing of Brown Linen took place, has brought the Linen in general to the full Breadth, yet it is thought necessary, on several Accounts, to continue the Law concerning the Length of Reeds.

And that every Weaver shall write or cause to be written in a legible Manner, on every Piece of brown plain Linen Cloth of any Sett whatever by him, his Journeyman, or Apprentice woven, his Christian Name and Sirname at full Length; upon Pain of forfeiting to the Informer the Sum of forty Shillings, for every Piece of such Linen Cloth by him or them woven, and omitted to be mark'd as aforesaid.

The Intention of marking the Weaver's Name, is a good one, that his Credit may be engaged with Regard to the Goodness of the Web.---The Alteration of WRITE, instead of STAMP, is made, because the Weavers cannot with any Convenience get their Linens stamped with their Names; for which Reason the Law has not hitherto been minded; but all of them can write, or get their Names written; and therefore the Law will be obeyed.

And that every Weaver shall well and sufficiently weave all Linen and Hempen Yarn to him delivered, within such Time, and in Reeds and into Cloth of such certain Breadths, as shall be agreed upon between the Owner or Owners of such Yarn and such Weaver, provided such Breadths be not contrary to the Directions aforesaid;

faid; upon Pain of forfeiting to the Owner or Owners of such Yarn, the full Value or Price agreed upon for weaving such Yarn.

To continue the following Part of Sect. 13th:  
“ And that no Weaver shall make Use of any Reeds, in weaving Linen Cloth or Hempen Cloth, that shall not be equally divided into Splits and marked as aforesaid; upon Pain of forfeiting to the Informer, for every Reed that such Weaver shall make use of, that shall not be equally divided and marked as aforesaid, such Sum, not exceeding ten Shillings, nor under five Shillings, as shall be determined by the Person or Persons hereinafter impowered to hear and determine such Offence; and upon further Pain of forfeiting every such Reed, to be broke by the Person or Persons determining such Offence.

To continue Sections 15th, 16th, and 17th:  
“ And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Linen-Weaver, being a Protestant, having served his Apprenticeship to the said Trade for the Space of five Years or upwards, and being set up for himself, and keeping one Loom or more constantly employed in the Linen Manufacture, shall be exempted from being petty Constable, or Church-Warden, or Sidesman, for the Term of seven Years from the Time of his first setting up, and shall be also a Freeman of the City or Town-Corporate wherein he shall set up his Trade, during his Residence and following the said Trade therein, and be also  
exempted



exempted from serving on Juries at Assizes or Sessions.

“ Provided that no Protestant Weaver as aforesaid, shall be entitled to enjoy the aforesaid Privileges and Immunities, unless he shall have served five Years Apprenticeship to the said Trade, and worked two Years after at the same as a Journeyman, except such as shall be actually Master-Workmen, or have past their Times of Apprenticeship before the Commencement of this Act.

“ Provided also, That no Protestant Weaver shall have any Right to vote in the Election of any Magistrate for such City, or Town-Corporate, or of any Member to serve in this or any future Parliament in this Kingdom, by Virtue only of such Freedom; and that the like Privileges and Immunities, and under the like Restrictions, shall extend to all Foreigners, Master-Workmen being Protestants, as are now in, or shall hereafter come into this Kingdom, and set up Looms and work at the Linen Trade.”

To drop the first Part of Sect. 18, concerning the Weaver's keeping a Number of Reeds.

This Article, which is not at all minded, might have been necessary in the Infancy of the Trade, but is not now. It is as proper for a Weaver to have a 13, a 14, a 16, or a 17 Hundred Reed, as any of the Kinds in this Sect. named; but as all Kinds of Reeds are now plenty in the Country, a Weaver can readily provide himself with any Sort he wants; and as Reeds grow much worse by lying by, it would be unfit to cause a Weaver to keep Reeds by him for which he has not an immediate Use.

To

To continue that Part of Sect. 18, which regards Journeymen and Apprentices:----“ And that no Master Weaver or other Person shall entertain any Journeyman Linen Weaver inhabiting in this Kingdom, in any Employment as a Linen Weaver, unless such Journeyman Weaver shall first produce to the Master or Person about to hire him, a Certificate in Writing under the Hand of the Master he last served in this Kingdom, of such Journeyman's being discharged from such Master's Service by Consent of such Master; and if any Master without just Cause shall refuse to give such Certificate, upon Complaint made thereof by such Journeyman to a Justice of the Peace of the County, or Chief Magistrate in any corporate Town where such Master inhabits, such Justice of the Peace or Chief Magistrate shall send for such Master, and require from him the Reason why such Journeyman is refused such Discharge and Certificate, and in Case such Justice of the Peace or Chief Magistrate, shall find that the Cause of Refusal of such Certificate is not sufficient, then and in such Case, such Justice of the Peace or Chief Magistrate, may, and is hereby required, to give a Certificate of such causeless Refusal, which Certificate by the said Justice of the Peace or Chief Magistrate, shall be as effectual as if a Certificate had been given by such Master, and shall be given without Fee or Reward, and shall fully discharge such Journeyman to all Intents and Purposes; and that any Journeyman counterfeiting or producing a counterfeited Certificate,

WEAVERS  
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tificate, under the Hand of any Master, or Justice of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate, shall be committed to the House of Correction, and there kept for the Space of six Months to hard Labour; and if any Master or other Person shall take into his Service, any Journeyman who has been in any former Service, without such Certificate from the former Master in whose Service such Journeyman last was, or such Justice of the Peace or Chief Magistrate, and employ such Journeyman as a Linen Weaver, every such Master or other Person receiving such Journeyman into his Service and employing him as aforesaid, shall forfeit to the Informer the Sum of five Pounds. And that no Linen Weaver shall employ his Apprentice for any unreasonable Time in Husbandry, or any other Work or Labour not relating to the Business or Trade of a Weaver, except only during twenty four Days in Harvest in every Year, under the Penalty of forfeiting to the Informer for the first Offence the Sum of ten Shillings, and for the second Offence the Sum of twenty Shillings, and for the third Offence such Apprentice shall and may, if he desires the same, be discharged from serving the remaining Time of his Apprenticeship.

The Law concerning Journeymen and Apprentices is, as it now stands, very good and sufficient for the intended Purposes; but, like the most of the other Linen Laws, has worn into Disuse, and remains unexecuted through Indolence or Inattention, and great Inconveniencies are suffered by the Manufacturers and Weavers on this Account, which are justly and universally complained of.

**WEAVERS**

**WEAVERS APPRENTICES.**

**AND** we would most humbly make it our Request (if it be not an improper one) that a Law may be enacted to some such Purpose as the following, " **THAT** no Weaver's Apprentice shall enlist himself, nor shall any recruiting Officer enlist or receive into Pay, any Weaver's Apprentice, after having served more than one Year of his Apprenticeship, unless such Officer shall first fully pay and satisfy the Master of such Apprentice so enlisted, for whatever Damage he may be reasonably judg'd to have sustained, by being deprived of such Apprentice.

The Enlisting of Weavers Apprentices who have served a great Part of their Time, is very distressing to their Masters, who, after maintaining them, to little immediate Benefit, and at a great Expence, for the first Part of their Apprenticeship, when they can be of small Use, are hereby deprived of Advantages they might reasonably have expected by their Labour in the latter Years of their Service. And we are informed there is a Law in England much to the above Purpose, which is undoubtedly highly useful.

**BLEACHING**



## BLEACHING.

WE humbly propose to Consideration, the following Alteration of the 19th Sect. of the 19th Geo. II.

“AND be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that if any Person or Persons shall make use of Lime, Soapers Dregs, or Pigeons Dung in the whitening or bleaching of Linen Cloth or Linen Yarn so as thereby in any Respect to damnify the same, or make it in any Degree rotten or tender, such Person or Persons shall forfeit to the Informer the Sum of five Pounds, and also such Cloth or Yarn so damnified, made rotten or tender by the Use of such Lime, Soapers Dregs, or Pigeons Dung as aforesaid. And in Case the Linen Cloth or Linen Yarn so damnified shall not be found, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Person and Persons hereinafter empowered to hear and determine all Offences against this Act, to set a further Fine upon the Offender, equal in Value to such Linen Cloth or Linen Yarn, to be paid to the Informer.”

It would seem to be improper to prohibit the Use of any Material, but so far as it does Damage. If Lime be as pernicious as is imagined, it will do so much Damage to Cloth as will effectually, with the Help of this Law, exclude the Use of it: But if it does none (which we are informed is the Case when properly used) it is highly detrimental to this Country to prohibit absolutely the Use of it, especially as foreign Athes is a great Tax on our Linens, near a Shilling per Piece, which is all paid in ready Money or Bills of Exchange; and it is grown within these

these last two Years more than 50 per Cent. higher than formerly. Now, as Lime properly used, might in some Degree supply the Place of this Material, and is so very cheap, it seems hard entirely to prohibit it, and more especially as Lime is used in England and Scotland to these Purposes; and Kelp, which is probably a worse Material, is used by us, and Vitriol, which is surely a more dangerous one, is now used not only without Hurt, but to the great Advantage of the Trade. Or if the proposed Amendment should be thought dangerous, we would humbly beg, that a Power be vested in the Trustees, to modify the Fines and Penalties to be inflicted by Virtue of this Act, in such Manner as shall to them seem fit and proper, and best suited to answer the true and ultimate Ends and Purposes of the Laws, and the real Good of the Manufacture.

We also humbly recommend, that the 20th and 21st Sections of the 19th Geo. II. be continued; and that the Powers granted for searching for Lime, &c. and summoning the Servants of Bleachers to declare what they know of their Master's using the same, should also be extended to, and take in the Cases of damnified Flaxseed or Hempseed, false Reeds, and fine Laps in Cloth, in some such Manner as the following:

“ And whereas the Improvement of the Linen Manufacture depends very much upon preventing the damnifying of Linen Cloth or Yarn in the Bleaching by using Lime, &c. and upon putting an End to the pernicious Practices of mixing and selling damnified Flaxseed and Hempseed, and of making fraudulent Reeds, and of the Manufacturer making fine Folds or Lap-yards, and marking the same; Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Person and Persons herein-after impowered to hear and determine Offences against this Act, by a Writing  
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under his or their Hand or Hands, to summon the Servant of any Bleacher, or of any Dealer in Flaxseed or Hempseed, or of any Reed-Maker, or of any Draper, or of any Manufacturer or Weaver of Linen Cloth, or any other Person or Persons whatsoever, to appear before him or them, and upon his or their Appearance, to examine him or them upon Oath as to their Knowledge, concerning his or their Master or any other Person Damnifying Linen Cloth or Yarn in the Bleaching by the Use of Lime, or of his or their mixing and selling damnified Flaxseed or Hempseed, or of his or their making fraudulent or unstatutable Reeds, or of his or their making fine Folds or Lap-yards, or marking the same. And in Case such Servant, Person or Persons, being summoned, shall wilfully refuse to appear pursuant to such Summons, such Person or Persons impowered as aforesaid, shall and may issue his or their Warrant to apprehend and bring before him or them, such Servant, Person or Persons, and in Case he or they refuse to be examined upon Oath to the Purpose aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful to and for such Person or Persons impowered as aforesaid, to commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction, there to be whipt and kept at hard Labour, for the Space of thirty Days, unless he or they do sooner submit to be examined as aforesaid;

“ Provided always, that such Person as shall be so examined, shall not be liable to any Forfeiture or Punishment, relating to the Crime or Offence

Offence which he shall, on such his Examination, discover."

### To drop Sect. 22d.

When all Servants, Bleachers, &c. may be summoned to declare what they know with Regard to the Offences mentioned, no Person it is thought can propose to commit such Offences with Impunity; it is therefore imagined it will not be thought necessary to continue it in the Power of every Magistrate to send any Person or Persons into our Bleach-yards, Buck-houses, or the Appurtenances, and to view and search all Rooms, Places, &c. therein; and that if they find any Lime about the Buck-house, or even in the Bleach-yard (where it can scarcely ever be wanted for Repairs) the Possessor of the Bleach-yard, and every Person working therein, should incur the several Penalties inflicted by the Act. The continuing of such a Power, as it might be accompanied with great Injury and Hardship to Individuals, so we humbly hope it will not in general be thought needful, to answer the good Purposes of the Act.

And we pray it may be further enacted, that in all Cases where Damages are committed in Bleaching, (instead of being subject to a Penalty, from five Shillings to forty Shillings, as by the 23d Sect. of the 19th Geo. II.) the Undertaker shall be obliged to take the Linens so damaged to his or their own Account, and to pay the Proprietor the first Cost of the same.

The Reason of the proposed Alteration will be obvious, when it is considered, that oftentimes the Damage done by Bleachers, in the present enlarged State of the Trade, amounts to ten Times the present Penalty: And it is hoped the Penalty proposed will still be thought little enough.

### To drop Sections 24 and 25.

There are few Linen-Drapers in Ireland who might not have been ruined any Time these many years past if this Clause had been executed. The Linens bleached towards the Winter are much



under his or their Hand or Hands, to summon the Servant of any Bleacher, or of any Dealer in Flaxseed or Hempseed, or of any Reed-Maker, or of any Draper, or of any Manufacturer or Weaver of Linen Cloth, or any other Person or Persons whatsoever, to appear before him or them, and upon his or their Appearance, to examine him or them upon Oath as to their Knowledge, concerning his or their Master or any other Person Damnifying Linen Cloth or Yarn in the Bleaching by the Use of Lime, or of his or their mixing and selling damnified Flaxseed or Hempseed, or of his or their making fraudulent or unstatutable Reeds, or of his or their making fine Folds or Lap-yards, or marking the same. And in Case such Servant, Person or Persons, being summoned, shall wilfully refuse to appear pursuant to such Summons, such Person or Persons impowered as aforesaid, shall and may issue his or their Warrant to apprehend and bring before him or them, such Servant, Person or Persons, and in Case he or they refuse to be examined upon Oath to the Purpose aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful to and for such Person or Persons impowered as aforesaid, to commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction, there to be whipt and kept at hard Labour, for the Space of thirty Days, unless he or they do sooner submit to be examined as aforesaid;

“ Provided always, that such Person as shall be so examined, shall not be liable to any Forfeiture or Punishment, relating to the Crime or Offence

Offence which he shall, on such his Examination, discover."

### To drop Sect. 22d.

When all Servants, Bleachers, &c. may be summoned to declare what they know with Regard to the Offences mentioned, no Person it is thought can propose to commit such Offences with Impunity; it is therefore imagined it will not be thought necessary to continue it in the Power of every Magistrate to send any Person or Persons into our Bleach-yards, Buck-houses, or the Appurtenances, and to view and search all Rooms, Places, &c. therein; and that if they find any Lime about the Buck-house, or even in the Bleach-yard (where it can scarcely ever be wanted for Repairs) the Possessor of the Bleach-yard, and every Person working therein, should incur the several Penalties inflicted by the Act. The continuing of such a Power, as it might be accompanied with great Injury and Hardship to Individuals, so we humbly hope it will not in general be thought needful, to answer the good Purposes of the Act.

And we pray it may be further enacted, that in all Cases where Damages are committed in Bleaching, (instead of being subject to a Penalty, from five Shillings to forty Shillings, as by the 23d Sect. of the 19th Geo. II.) the Undertaker shall be obliged to take the Linens so damaged to his or their own Account, and to pay the Proprietor the first Cost of the same.

The Reason of the proposed Alteration will be obvious, when it is considered, that oftentimes the Damage done by Bleachers, in the present enlarged State of the Trade, amounts to ten Times the present Penalty: And it is hoped the Penalty proposed will still be thought little enough.

### To drop Sections 24 and 25.

There are few Linen-Drapers in Ireland who might not have been ruined any Time these many years past if this Clause had been executed. The Linens bleached towards the Winter are much



much safer bleached than those done in Summer; but the Expence is much greater, and the Work more difficult; which is fully sufficient to deter People from laying down too early or too late, without this Law, which if inforced would only cramp the Trade, and be highly inconvenient. At present, if an Information is made to a Magistrate, he, knowing the Law to be quite unreasonable, puts off the Informer, by telling him that an Information was made to him before of the same; by which Means the Owner is saved from the Penalty.—Several Instances of this Kind have happened. But if the Justice did not chuse this Remedy, the Owner must suffer, for there is none other.

**To continue Sect. 26th of 19th Geo. II.**

“ And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons whatsoever shall keep, employ, or make use of any public Bleach-yard within the City of Dublin, or five Miles thereof, without Licence for that Purpose first had and obtained from the Trustees herein-after named for the Time being, or any five or more of them; on Pain of forfeiting the Sum of two hundred Pounds, to be paid to such Person and Persons, and for such Uses as the said Trustees, or any five or more of them, shall think proper; and that no Fee or Reward shall be taken for such Licence or Licences.

**To continue the latter Part of Sect. 28, and the Whole of 29:**

“---And that no Felon convicted, according to the Course of the Law and Statutes of this Kingdom, of stealing of Flaxen or Hempen Yarn or Cloth, or other Flaxen or Hempen Manufacture, above the Value of five Shillings, from or out of any

any Bleach-yard, Buck-house, or Work-house thereunto belonging, whether the Fact be committed by Day or by Night, shall be allowed the Benefit of Clergy, or of the Act of Parliament passed in the ninth Year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, intituled, 'An Act for taking away the Benefit of Clergy in certain Cases, and for taking away the Book in all Cases, and for repealing Part of the Statute for Transporting Felons;' Any Law, Usage, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding."

To drop the 19th Sect. of 19th of Geo. II. so far as it concerns Kelp, and take in, as more full to the Purpose, the 5th Sect. of 31st Geo. II. leaving out the Words [knowing the same to be so adulterated] which we apprehend gives Room to evade the Laws:

"AND whereas great Abuses have been committed in the burning and manufacturing of Kelp, to the Prejudice of the Linen Manufacture; Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that if any Person or Persons, shall, from and after the mix any Stone or Stones, Sand, or Gravel, amongst Kelp, in the burning or manufacturing thereof, or shall sell, or expose to Sale, any Kelp adulterated with Stones, Sand, or Gravel, every such Person or Persons, shall forfeit, for every such Offence, a Sum, not exceeding six Pounds, or less than three Pounds Sterling; and all the Kelp so adulterated shall be forfeited and disposed of, as hereafter mentioned; and every Justice of the Peace, and Chief Magistrate of

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any corporate Town, within their respective Jurisdictions, are hereby impowered to hear and determine the Offences aforesaid, and to examine, upon Oath, any Witness or Witnesses for that Purpose, and may issue a Warrant for levying the said Penalties off the Goods and Chattels of the Offender, which shall be paid to the Informer; and that it shall be lawful for every Justice of the Peace, or such Chief Magistrate, upon due Information upon Oath, by Warrant under Hand and Seal, to authorize any Person or Persons, to stop any Boat or Boats, conveying any Kelp adulterated as aforesaid, in, or out of any Harbour, or Coast-ways, from one Place to another, and to seize such Kelp so adulterated, and to bring it before such Justice or Chief Magistrate, who shall order the same to be broken into small Pieces, if it shall be found to be adulterated as aforesaid, and to be thrown out for Manure, on the next adjacent Land; and all Kelp, which shall be proved before any Justice of the Peace, or such Chief Magistrate, to be adulterated as aforesaid, shall be so broken and disposed of; provided that it shall not be put, or thrown out on any Land belonging to any Justice of the Peace or such Chief Magistrate; and every Boatman who shall be employed in conveying [such adulterated] Kelp, shall forfeit the Sum of forty Shillings, to be levied as aforesaid, and to be paid to the Informer."

To

To take in Sect. 16th of the late Linen Bill :

“ And we pray it may be further Enacted, That all Kelp, which shall be brought by Boat or Coasting Vessel from any Part of this Kingdom into the Harbour or up the Quay of any City or Town of this Kingdom, such Kelp shall be free from all Toll, Custom, Gateage or Perquisite claimed by any Officer or Member of the Corporation of such City or Town, and shall be exported or carried by Land Carriage through and from such City or Town, free from all Toll, Custom, Perquisite, or Gateage whatsoever; and if any Person or Persons shall demand or receive any Part of such Kelp, or any Sum or Sums of Money for any such Toll, Custom, Gateage, or Perquisite, such Person or Persons shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of five Pounds Sterl.

And also Sections 14 and 15, with Additions, as follow :

“ And we pray it may be further Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for every Person and Persons whatsoever, being seized in Possession in Law or Equity of an Estate in Fee Tail or for Life, with immediate Remainder over to, or in Trust for his, her, or their Issue, to demise any Part of the Land whereof he, she, or they shall be so seized, being no Part of the Demain usually occupied with his, her, or their Mansion-House, and not exceeding [Fifty] Acres, Plantation Measure, for one or more Life or Lives, renewable



able for ever, or for any Term of Years, at the full improved yearly Value of such Lands, to be set to a solvent Tenant, at the Time of making such Lease, for the Purpose of making a Bleach-Yard, or Bleach-Green thereon, [and furnishing Conveniencies for the Person making or occupying such Bleach-Yard, and the Workmen employed therein:] And in Case the Lands so demised, or [the tenth Part thereof,] shall be formed into a Bleach-Yard or Bleach-Green within three Years, after the making of such Lease, [and a Sum or Sums not less than one hundred Pounds for every ten Acres so demised, be laid out in Improvements on the same,] then, and not otherwise, such Lease renewable for ever, or Lease for Years, shall be good and effectual against every Person claiming any Estate in such Land as Issue in Tail, or by Virtue of any Limitation, Remainder or Reversion, in any Will or Settlement under which such Tenant in Tail or for Life shall be intituled to such Land at the Time of making such Lease.

It cannot be expected, that any Man who intends to make a Bleach-yard, and lay out thereon 300 to 800, and sometimes to more than 1000 l. will take any Piece of Ground which is not sufficient for his own private Accommodation, and also of all his Bleachers; and as any Bleach-yard of a moderate Largeness will have Occasion for ten Bleachers at least, and each Bleacher will want at least three Acres,---the extending the Quantity of Land mentioned in the Clause to fifty Acres must be very moderate.

This Clause, it is humbly imagined, should extend to Bleach-yards already made, as well as to be made.

“ And

“ And we pray it may be enacted, That from and after ~~the 1st of January 1701~~ if any Person shall knowingly sell or expose to Sale any Piece of unbleached Linen Cloth which shall have been dyed or stained, either in the Yarn or Cloth, with Bean-leaves, Bark, Lamp-black or Gun-powder, [or any other Material which renders the Cloth difficult to bleach] such Offender shall forfeit to the first real Informer for every such Offence the Sum of twenty Shillings for every such Piece of dyed or stained Linen Cloth, and also every such Piece of Cloth, and that every such Piece of Cloth shall be cut into Parts not exceeding four Yards in Length in any one Part, in the Presence of the Person or Persons herein-after impowered to hear and determine such Offence.

To take in the 7th, 8th, and 9th Clauses of the late Linen Bill, altered as follow:

“ And we pray it may be further enacted, that from and after the ~~1st of January 1701~~ no Duty whatsoever shall be paid for any Wood or Weed Ashes, or Ashes of any Kind used in Bleaching which shall be imported into this Kingdom: And likewise that the Blue called Smalts, Oil of Vitriol, Black Soap, and Bleachers Furnaces, be exempted from every Kind of Duty.

“ And we pray that it may be further enacted, that from and after the ~~1st of January 1701~~ if any Person or Persons shall wilfully and maliciously Damage any Linen, Cotton, or Hempen Cloth, or any Manufacture made or mixed with Linen or  
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Hempen Yarn, in any Bleach-yard, by making Holes or Rents therein, or by throwing Gravel or Sand, or Dirt into any Rubbing-boards which shall be used in such Bleach-yard, or by mixing Dye-stuffs, or other improper Materials, with the Lyes or Soures which shall be used in such Bleach-yard, [or in any other Manner whatsoever;] every such Person so offending, being thereof lawfully convicted upon Indictment, shall be adjudged Guilty of Felony, and shall be transported as a Felon to one of his Majesty's Plantations in America for seven Years.

“ And we pray it may be further enacted, that from and after ~~that~~ if any Overseer, Foreman, Bleacher, or other Person employed in any Bleach-yard, shall fraudulently take into such Bleach-yard any Linen, Hempen, or Cotton Cloth, or any Linen, Hempen, or Cotton Yarn, or any Manufacture mixed with Linen or Hempen Yarn, in order to bleach, or otherwise improve the same, without the Knowledge or Privity of his, her, or their Employer or Master, or of the Owner of such Bleach-yard, every Person or Persons so offending shall forfeit the Sum of forty Shillings to the Owner of such Bleach-yard.”

And we further humbly pray it may be enacted, That all Overseers of Bleach-yards committing Damages in the Bleaching of Linens be obliged to pay the one Half of the Value of such Damages to his Employer, unless he can make it appear that it was not his Fault, but owing to the Neglect or Carelessness of some of the  
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Men employed under him; and, in which Case, that the Person upon whom the Guilt is proved shall be publickly whipped, or sent to Jail or to the House of Correction for such Time as the Magistrate shall determine, in Proportion to the Nature of the Offence.

And that if any Damage is done to any Linen Cloth or Yarn in any Bleach-yard, and the Overseer of such Bleach-yard, or whoever commits the Damage, or knows the same to have been committed, does not in ten Days after such Damage is committed or found out, inform his Master, or the Proprietor of the Bleach-yard, concerning the same, such Overseer, Person or Persons committing or knowing of such Damage, and not informing thereof within ten Days as aforesaid, shall be liable to pay the full Value of such Damage to the Proprietor of such Bleach-yard.

And that any Bleacher absenting himself from the Green where he has hired himself to work, unless in the Cases of Sicknefs, unavoidable Necessity, or the Leave of the Overseer first had and obtained, such Bleacher so absenting himself shall forfeit to his Master for every Day he shall thus absent himself, the full Wages or Hire which he was to have had for one Week's Work.

And whereas Cloth is often damaged by being put out to the Green just from the Boil, with the hot Kelp Lye therein, which, when it gets Leave to dry in the Cloth, causes Spots thereof to become tender, and to fall out afterwards into Holes; We therefore pray it may be Enacted, That no Overseer or Head-Bleacher shall put out,



out, or cause or suffer to be put out upon the Green, any Cloth after any Boiling in Kelp Lye, until the same be washed in the Wash-Mill, after every such Boiling and before every such laying out thereof on the Green, or if there be no Wash-Mill belonging to the Green, or Water to work the same, then in such other Way and Manner of Washing Cloth as is generally used in such Green.

The Penalty may be made very considerable, as the Evil is very great, and the Offenders in such Cases are able enough and very well deserve to pay it. Much Good might hereby be done, and great Mischief prevented, in almost every Bleach-yard in the Kingdom; there being very few who uniformly follow this good Practice, though it is absolutely necessary for the Safety and Benefit of the Cloth.

To take in, the 17th Section of a British Statute concerning Scotland, 21st Geo. II.—altered as follows:

“ And be it Enacted, that all Persons keeping or occupying Bleach-yards, shall mark or stamp, or cause to be marked or stamped, in legible Letters, with like Ingredients as are used in Sealing White Linens, on each End of every Piece of Cloth by them bleached or whitened, their Names and Places of Abode, with the Addition of the Word, Bleacher; under the Penalty of a Sum not exceeding twenty Shillings for every Piece of Cloth which shall not be so marked.

We hope the Reason, as well as the Necessity of adopting this Clause, will appear obvious; for too many Bleachers, at present, do not care in what Condition they put Cloths out of their Hands, as they think their Credit therein no further concerned.

And

And as in the Business of Bleaching Linens, it becomes necessary to venture great Property on the Greens through the Night, whereby the same is much exposed, and Linens have been stolen out of many of them yearly to a considerable Amount, these several Years past: We therefore humbly pray that it may be Enacted, that a Reward of fifty Pounds be paid to whoever shall inform against and prosecute to Conviction any Person stealing or having stolen one Piece or more of Linen Cloth, Value ten Shillings or upwards, or any Quantity of Yarn of the same Value, off any Bleach-green, or out of any Buck-house, or any Linen Ware-house whatever, which Reward to be presented by the Grand Jury at the Assizes, and laid on and levied off the Barony in which such Felony shall be committed.

### EMBEZZLEMENT of LINEN, &c.

TO drop the 29th Section of 19th George II. and in place thereof, as fuller to the Purpose, take in, the 6th Section of 31st Geo. II.

“ And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Weaver, Bleacher, Carrier, Lapper, Kalendar-keeper, or other Person whatsoever entrusted with any Linen or Hempen Yarn, or Linen or Hempen Cloth, shall fraudulently sell or embezzle the same, or any Part thereof, of the Value of one Shilling or upwards, such Weaver, Bleacher, Carrier, Lapper,



Kalendar-keeper, or other Person, and the Receiver or Receivers thereof, knowing the same to be embezzled, shall for every such Offence be committed to Gaol, without Bail or Mainprize, until treble the Value of such Yarn or Cloth so embezzled, be paid to the Person aggrieved thereby.

To continue the 40th Section of 19th Geo. II. with an Addition, as follows:

“ And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall rescue or take by Force any Hemp, Flax, or Thread, Bos, Tapes, Chats, Inkles, Filleting, Breads, Ferretting, Shoe-Lace, Points, Bobbin, Linen Yarn, Linen or Hempen Cloth, out of the Custody or Possession of any Person or Persons who shall have seized the same, for being managed or made up contrary to the Directions aforesaid, the Person or Persons so rescuing or taking by Force, shall for every such Offence forfeit to the Informer the Sum of forty Shillings, [and also the Value of the Goods so rescued and taken as aforesaid.

The Reason of the Addition is obvious. Many Times the Articles seizable are worth more than 40 s. so that in these Cases the Rescuer might allow himself to pay 40 s. in Order to get his Goods back, and evade the Law.

**JOBBER**

**JOBBERS and HAWKERS.**

IN order to set aside Hawkers and Jobbers of brown Linen Cloth, we pray that it may be enacted, that no Person or Persons shall buy any brown Linen Cloth and sell the same again, in the same or any neighbouring Market on the same Day, or within two Months afterwards, without having first made some useful Improvement or Alteration upon the said Linen; and except such brown Linen be sold by Persons lawfully licenced, and in no less a Quantity than 20 Pieces together; and that any Person who shall act contrary to the Intention of this Law, shall be deem'd a Hawker or Jobber, and be subject to Fine and Imprisonment, or Transportation. And that if any Person shall be proved to be a Hawker or Jobber of Brown Linen, or one who sells Brown Linen for Hire, either in Drink or Money, that such Person shall be deemed a Vagabond, and confined for six Months.

This takes in, what is needful for this Part of the Country, of the 12th Clause of the late Linen Bill; and the Additions and Amendments will render the Clause capable of being carried into Execution.

The Jobbing, or buying and selling of Brown Linen Cloth, is now got to a surprizing Height: Many Weavers go to a Market, spend a whole Day, buy a few Pieces of Linen, and cheat the Country-People out of a Yard in every Web; (indeed where the Sealing of Brown Linen is adhered to it is not now in the Power of the Jobber to cheat of the Length, but where  
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the Seals have not taken place they still have the same Opportunity : ) Next Day they attend a neighbouring Market, and generally employ a Set of Vagabonds, or idle, drunken Weavers, called Hawkers ; to whom they give sometimes Drink, and sometimes a small Hire, which is also generally spent in Drink, for helping them to sell :---These present their Linens to Sale, and with impudent Asseverations, and horrid Oaths, impose on the young and unwary in the Trade ; oftentimes too, they both buy and sell in one Market, on the same Day : This, for the most of the Days in every Week, is the Business followed by these Men ; and the Profits they make, by thus preying on the Trade, are generally wasted or spent in Idleness and Drunkenness. This, and every Part of their Business, has a strong Tendency to corrupt their Morals ; so that we believe this very Set of Men is farther sunk into Wickedness and all Manner of Debauchery, than any Other whatever.

The Consequence of this Law would be, the keeping these People in their own Houses ; and Necessity would soon make them reassume their former Business, and grow industrious ; their Morals, it is probable, would by Degrees grow better ; and hereby, out of the very Dregs of the People, a great Number might be restored, so as to become useful Members of the Community.

A few large Buyers and Sellers are, perhaps, necessary ; as coarse Linens are brought from distant Parts and sold in Quantities ; which Trade probably could not be conveniently struck off : Therefore we have prayed, that those Kinds of Buyers should be licensed by the Trustees ; which will not be troublesome, as a very few only can at any Time be found necessary.

The Jobbers of Yarn, too, not only spoil the publick Fairs and Markets, as may be seen by the Notes under that Title, but are also become Instruments of heavy Oppression upon the poor Weavers and Manufacturers. A Day or two before a Yarn Fair is held, they go round the Country from whence the Fair is to be supplied, to buy up the Yarn from the Spinners, using various Means and Arts to get it from such of them as are most simple and ignorant, below the Market Price ;---whilst the poor Weaver, who cannot afford to go through the Country, or hardly to get off from his Loom to attend the Fair or Market, and being perhaps in immediate want of Yarn, is obliged to buy from the Jobbers, rather than sit idle ; and as these Foresters often engross the great Bulk of the Yarn into their Hands, the Weaver must generally take it at their own Price. This Evil, therefore, on these several Accounts, is grown almost insupportable.

Note : The Means for setting aside Yarn-Jobbers are pointed out under the Article YARN.

LEINSTER,

P. 8. It would be endless to set forth particularly all the several Methods of tricking and biting followed by these Jobbers and Hawkers; but we will just add two more Instances: The Hawkers often persuade the simple Country People to give them their Webbs to sell; and thereby take an Occasion to cheat them out of a considerable Part of the Price.——And the Jobbers generally damp or dress the brown Linens they buy, in order to press or beetle them, and clothe them, as their Phrase is; by which Means such Linens will not hold out the Measure. They will distend again, indeed, and come to the former Length when they are quite dry; but they are generally sold and measured again while they are damp: And this very Thing has occasioned most of the Disputes about Measure, and Complaints against Brown Seal-Masters that have happened, since the Sealing commenced.

## LEINSTER, MUNSTER, and CONNAUGHT.

WE suppose it is proper to continue the 36th and 37th Sections of 19th Geo. II.——But with Regard to the Nature of the Trade at present carried on in those Provinces, we do not take upon us to be Judges.

We would however beg Leave just to hint to the Honourable the Trustees, as a Matter which we humbly conceive would be attended with the greatest good Consequences; That they would be pleased to encourage a few ingenious Workmen, well skilled in the Linen Business, and properly recommended, to remove from this Part of the Kingdom, to the other Provinces; and to furnish them with Specimens of various Kinds of Linens wanted in the Spanish, Portuguese, and other foreign Markets, which they could easily learn the People to imitate. We think that some such Method as this, carefully pursued, (and it would quickly appear to be every private Gentleman's Interest so to pursue it) would soon bring that Part of the Manufacture to some Degree of Perfection; which, when properly accommodated to the foreign Taste, and adapted to the Demand of every Market, would certainly meet with proper Encouragement Abroad; which Encouragement would mutually tend still further to extend the Manufacture at Home; and consequently might in Time be of the greatest Good to this Kingdom.



## 54 *Leinster, Munster and Connaught.*

And as it may be reasonably hoped, that by proper Encouragement the various Species of Linen demanded in the Spanish and Portuguese Markets, may be properly set a-going in those Parts of the Kingdom, we think it would be a Means further to establish the same, to have it enacted that a Bounty of one Penny or three Half-pence *per* Yard should, for a limited Time, be granted to the immediate Exporters of Irish Linens to Spain and Portugal.

This Encouragement, as it would tend still further to encrease the various Assortments of Irish Linens in foreign Markets, so it would also be peculiarly conducive to the Establishment of the Manufacture in the Southern Parts of this Kingdom, free of all Competition.

And it may here be proper to be observed, That as the North of Ireland has long been employed in manufacturing the different Kinds of fine and coarse Yard-wides, Seven-eighths, and Three-quarter-wides, for all of which, made up in the present Forms, they have hitherto had a considerable Demand, notwithstanding the Frauds so generally practised; and it may reasonably be hoped they will have a much greater Demand, when the present Regulations have so far operated, as fully to reform and amend the Trade: It is therefore not to be expected that in this Province the Manufacturers will quit their old accustomed Manner of Trade, to fall into such new Branches of Business, as they are unexperienced in; except it be in the fine Branches, which they would do well to strike into, and cultivate more than they have done; such as striped and flowered Cambricks and Lawns, &c.—but the coarser Branches they can never be expected to go back into. We therefore apprehend, that the Manufacturing of such different Species of coarse Linens as are wanted in the Spanish and Portuguese Markets, must solely fall to the Share of the Southern Provinces of this Kingdom.

Neither would this be in the least injurious, but on the contrary highly beneficial, to us here. For if Imitations of the different Species of coarse foreign Linen were made, in any Part of this Kingdom, there would then be compleat Assortments of all Kinds of Irish Linens in the *Dublin, London,* and every other Market, the want of which is at present so greatly and so justly complained of by our Correspondents and Factors Abroad. With such proper Assortments, especially of the coarser Branches, which would be every where begun with, we could supply Orders of every Kind, and furnish Goods suited to every Trade. By this Means we would have a Vend not only for immense Quantities of those coarser Kinds, but also for much greater Quantities of fine Linens than at present. For,

for

## *Leinster, Munster and Connaught.* 55.

for want of such Assortments of these different Kinds, the Exporting Merchants must at present apply to the Dutch or foreign Factors, or Others, whereby a Correspondence is still kept up between them; and what an Effect this must naturally have, in making them take over a foreign Linens, even of the Kinds we could supply them with, needs not be mentioned to any who are at all conversant in such Matters.

But to shew our Sense the more fully of the great Importance of encouraging effectually the Imitations of coarse foreign Linens in those Provinces, and of losing no Time in setting heartily about the same—We will beg Leave to quote a Passage from the *REVIEW*, a Pamphlet published by the Deputies of the Linen Drapers sent up to attend the Linen Board last April.

But there is not now that Plenty of foreign Linens there has formerly been; and now, if ever, is the Time to supplant them: How happily would we have been prepared, had the People in Power interested themselves, and the Reformation of Consequence become general, in the Year 1755 or 1757!—But it may not yet be too late. Let us therefore seize the present Minute, let us avail ourselves of the Advantages the War has given us before the Opportunity slips through our Hands; let us cultivate the Manufacture in all its various Forms, pour in our well-adapted Assortments into all the British Markets, instead of glutting them as we do at present with fine Linens only; let us take Possession of the empty Channels the Foreigners have left us, or turn the Current of the Trade where it begins to run slack, and use every Means in our Power to obtain the Ascendancy. What a glorious Opportunity have we at present, of extending our Manufacture in every Form, by having an Open to the British Market in its present unrivalled State? What a happy Advantage have we over every Competitor, by being always sure of a Preference there, and by that Support and Encouragement we have ever received from Britain, who may be considered as our nursing Mother, and the People thereof as our Friends and Brethren?

“How incumbent therefore is it upon us to deliver the Manufacture without delay, from all the Evils that so oppress and keep it down, and to suffer it to flourish under those happy Advantages, in every Place, and in all its different Forms? For since the Trade is so important and brings in so much Riches though only in one Province, carried on only in some of its Branches, and loaded with such Evils, of how grand Importance must it be, and what Riches must it bring in, if spread through all the Provinces, carried on in all its Branches, and delivered from all those Evils? Or, to consider the Thing more particularly, if the Linen Trade has grown so considerable



considerable, though so little Care has hitherto been taken, to enable it to maintain a Competition with its Rivals, or to deserve the important Preference given it by its Friends; if wherever it hath spread it hath so greatly raised the Value of Lands, notwithstanding the evil Plight it has ever yet been in, and the limited Manner in which it has ever been carried on; and if it has also in a most conspicuous Manner, multiplied the Inhabitants, notwithstanding the wretched Maintenance it at present affords them, so that many Thousands have been spared to serve their Country, and yet have never been missed?—how much more considerable must it necessarily grow, how unlimited and how important, under all the proposed Advantages!—And what an immense Addition must it every where make to the Value of Lands, the Number, Industry, and Usefulness of the Inhabitants, and consequently to the Strength, the Riches, and the Felicity of this Kingdom, if it was delivered from every Evil, spread through every Place, and carried on to the highest Perfection in all its various Branches?"

### **FAIRS and MARKETS.**

TO drop the 38th Section of the 19th George II. and in place thereof, as fuller to the Purpose, take in the 11th Clause of the late Linen Bill;—altered as follows:

"WE pray it may be enacted, that from and after all [unbleach'd] Linen Cloth and Linen Yarn, &c. that shall be bought and sold in any Place in this Kingdom (except in the City of Dublin and the Suburbs thereof) by any Person or Persons other than resident Merchants or Shopkeepers dealing in Linen Cloth or Linen Yarn, shall be bought and sold publickly without Doors in some open and lawful Market or Fair, between the Hours of eight of the Clock in the Forenoon and three of the Clock

Clock in the Afternoon, on the respective Day or Days on which such Market or Fair ought to be held; and that if any Person or Persons, not being a resident Merchant or Shopkeeper, shall buy, sell, or offer Money for, or contract to buy or sell, any Linen Cloth or Yarn, in any other Manner than as aforesaid, such Person or Persons shall for every such Offence forfeit to the first real Informer such Linen Cloth or Yarn, or the Value thereof; and if any Person or Persons shall purchase or contract to purchase any Linen Cloth or Yarn in any other Manner than as aforesaid, such Person or Persons so contracting or purchasing, shall forfeit to the first real Informer, the full Amount in Money of such Contract or Purchase, and also the further Sum of forty Shillings."

[Provided that nothing herein contained shall make it unlawful for any licenced Buyer of Yarn to sell such Yarn as he may have before bought in any lawful Fair or Market as aforesaid, in any such Place, House, or Ware-room as he may find necessary.]

This Law is not obeyed, which is a considerable Inconvenience to the Trade. Many People, particularly Jobbers, go through private Houses in the Country buying Yarn; others stand at Entrances into Towns, and in the Ways to the Market Places, stopping the Yarn and forestalling the Markets. Many Fairs are begun by grey Day, many before Day; and some the Evening before the Fair; in which Case many People sit up all Night in publick Houses buying and selling Yarn, which subjects them to drinking, whereby they destroy their Health and waste the Fruits of their Industry.

From eight in the Morning till two or three in the Afternoon, is thought to be a sufficient and the most proper Time; and the leaving a Liberty of selling Yarn the two Days next preceding



the Fair Days, seems to us to have been the Cause of running the Fairs into the Night, and of the other Irregularities above mentioned.

The Reason for inserting the Word [unbleach'd,] is, that as the Clause stood in the late Linen Bill, whoever should send any White Linen to any of the Out Ports, and sell or offer to sell the same, to any Master, Captain, or Supercargo, which is not unfrequently the Case, he, not being a resident Merchant, would forfeit the Whole of such Linen, or the full Value thereof, to any Informer; and in like Manner the Purchaser, though he were a resident Merchant, would also forfeit the Value.

Nor will this Clause, with this material Alteration from the Way it stood in the late Bill, answer in the present Circumstances of the Trade, unless Persons lawfully licenced to buy Linen Yarn, be also permitted to sell the same in such Manner as they may find most convenient: For it would be impracticable for Dealers who collect large Quantities of Yarn in different Fairs and Markets, and bring it to manufacturing Towns in Numbers of Horse-Loads together, to expose such Quantities in an open Market again; nor indeed is it necessary they should so expose it, as the Whole is generally designed for one particular Manufacturer, the Yarn-Buyer's Customer, who always takes his Yarn in the Wholesale Way: The Yarn therefore may be more conveniently carried to his House and sold to him there: And indeed the larger Manufactories could not be at all carried on, if the eminent People concern'd in them were confined to collect their Yarn in Fairs and Markets, and deprived of the Opportunity of buying in large Quantities.

## TRUSTEES, &c.

(SECT. 14th of 19th Geo. II. is inserted and enlarged in the Article CLOTH.)

WE do not take upon us to point out what may be fit to be added under this Title; but we humbly suppose it will be thought proper to continue Sections 30 and 31 of 19th Geo. II. altered as follow:

“ And to the End the several Orders and Regulations hereby made, for the Improvement of

of the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures, may be effectual and carried into due Execution, and that the Duties directed to be applied to the Uses of the said Manufactures may effectually answer the Purposes for which they are intended;

Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the several Persons nominated and appointed, for each of the four Provinces of this Kingdom, Trustees for encouraging the said Manufactures, pursuant to the Powers in some of the said Acts contained, shall and may continue Trustees for encouraging the said Manufactures according to the Powers and Authorities herein after vested in them, and that when and as often as any of the said Trustees already nominated and appointed as aforesaid, or hereafter to be nominated and appointed, shall happen to die, that in such Case the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of this Kingdom for the Time being, shall and may, and is and are hereby enabled from Time to Time, to nominate and appoint such other Person or Persons, to be a Trustee or Trustees for encouraging the said Manufactures, in the Place and Room of such of the said Trustees as are now dead, or shall happen to die, to be always chosen for the same Provinces of this Kingdom, for which the respective Person or Persons now dead, or so dying, was or were formerly appointed: And that the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, shall and may, from Time to Time, as often as they shall think fit, meet and assemble together in some convenient Place within



within the City of Dublin, or Liberties thereof, or within the County of Dublin, to settle and adjust such Matters as may be most reasonable and conducive, to the establishing and carrying on the said Manufactures in this Kingdom, and for preventing all Abuses that may happen in the same: And that the said Trustees for the Time being, or the major Part of them present at any such Meeting, such Majority not being less than Seven in Number, shall and may from Time to Time, appoint a Clerk, Doorkeeper, and other necessary Servants to attend them, and ascertain and direct proper Salaries for such Clerk, Doorkeeper, and other Servants respectively, not exceeding in the whole the Sum of Two hundred and fifty Pounds per Annum, to be paid out of the Duties granted for the Purposes of this Act; And that the said Trustees for the Time being, or the major Part of them then present, such Majority not being less than seven in Number, or any Person or Persons by them or such major Part of them appointed for and in their Behalf, shall and may enter into any Contract or Contracts with any Person or Persons, that they the said Trustees, or such major Part of them as aforesaid, shall judge proper, for the carrying on the said Hempen and Flaxen Manufacture, which Contract or Contracts shall as to the said Trustees, or the Person or Persons so contracting for them, and in their Behalf, be binding only upon, and answered out of the Money given by Parliament to the said Trustees: And that no Looms, Spinning Wheels, Reels, Hatchels,

Hatchels, or other Utenfils, which the said Trustees shall lend or cause to be lent, to any Person or Persons for carrying on the said Manufactures, or either of them, being sealed or stamped, with the Seal or Stamp appointed or used by the said Trustees for that Purpose, or any of them, shall be distrained for Rent or Hearth-Money, or on any other Account whatsoever, or shall be seized by Virtue of any Mesn Process or Execution, issuing out of any Court, by any Sheriff, Seneschal, Bailiff, or other Person or Persons whatsoever. And for the more effectual preventing of Frauds and Abuses in making of Linen and Hempen Cloths, and for bringing the same into better Repute;

“Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, from Time to Time, to licence and appoint, such fit and proper Person and Persons in such Places of this Kingdom, as they shall judge most convenient, to be Lappers, [or Seal-masters] to view, examine, and measure, all and every such Piece or Pieces of Linen or Hempen Cloth, as shall be produced and offered to him or them, and if such Cloth appear to be merchantable, and pursuant to the Directions aforesaid, then, and not otherwise, such Person or Persons so licenced as aforesaid, shall and may lap and make up the same, and mark thereon the Length of each Piece, and the Number of Inches such Piece contains in Breadth, and seal and stamp both Ends thereof, with the

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Name



Name of such Lapper, and the County in which he resides, or such other Impression as the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, shall think fit and appoint; and such Lapper or Lappers [Seal-master or Seal-masters] shall and may demand and take, the Sum of Two-Pence for each Piece of white or bleached Linen or Hempen Cloth, or Linen or Hempen Cloth made of high-white Yarn, so marked and stamped by him, and no more; and for each Piece of [brown] or unbleached Linen or Hempen Cloth containing twenty Yards or under, and so in Proportion for a greater Quantity, the Sum of one Penny and no more. And that if any Linen or Hempen Cloth shall be made and lapped up for Sale with any Chalk, Dust or Flour, or while such Cloth is wet or damp, such Cloth shall be forfeited to such Person or Persons as shall seize the same, and inform thereof in manner hereafter mentioned. And that if any Person or Persons shall sell or expose to Sale, any Linen or Hempen Cloth, [or any Manufacture made of Linen or Hempen Yarn] not being stamped and marked as aforesaid, such Person or Persons so offending, shall forfeit to the Informer the Sum of ten Shillings, for each Piece of [Linen or Hempen] Cloth [or other Manufacture made of Linen or Hempen Yarn] so sold or exposed to Sale as aforesaid. [And that if any Person or Persons shall buy, bargain or offer Money for any Linen or Hempen Cloth, or any Manufacture made of Linen or Hempen Yarn, not being stamped and marked aforesaid, such Person

Person or Persons so offending, shall forfeit to the Informer the Sum of five Pounds for each Piece of Linen or Hempen Cloth, or other Manufacture made of Linen or Hempen Yarn so bought, bargained, or offered Money for as aforesaid]. And that if any bleached Cloth or Cloths made of high-white Yarn, shall be found in the Shop, Ware-house or Possession, of any Trader or Dealer, or reputed Trader or Dealer in Linen or Hempen Cloths, lapped but not sealed and stamped according to the Directions aforesaid, he or they in whose Custody the same shall be found, shall forfeit to the Informer the Sum of five Shillings, for each Piece of Cloth not sealed or stamped as aforesaid."

After "Lapper" the Words [or Seal-Master] are added, as those Officers are now universally called Seal-Masters; and almost no Lappers are now Seal-Masters: So the Term "Lapper" should perhaps be now altogether dropt.

To drop Sect. 32,---by which all Linens from ten Hundred downwards are excepted from being Sealed.

If the Sealing Brown Linens above ten Hundreds be necessary, the Sealing those under it must be so also: And indeed the Credit of those Linens will soon be lost altogether, if they be not Sealed. We need not dwell long on this Point, as all the great Evils that have been so loudly complained of in our Manufacture, have originally arisen from the Want of this Guard being placed over the Trade, of Viewing, Examining and Sealing all Linens before they be offered to Sale. Without this, the Coarse Trade of this Kingdom will never be reformed; and without being reformed, it will never extend itself. The Drogheda Linens, at present in great Disrepute, are a glaring Instance of this; which Manufacture for want of this Regulation is so immersed in Fraud, that it is a Shame to have these Linens appear in any Market; and the suffering such to be exported is a great Discredit to the Trade



Trade of this Kingdom. The dropping this Clause, therefore, and ordering all Kinds without Exception to be Sealed, and exposed to Sale in open Folds, we deem absolutely and indispensably necessary.

To continue Section 34, with Additions, as follow :

“ And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, from Time to Time to licence and appoint, such and so many fit and proper Persons, in such Places of this Kingdom as they shall judge most convenient, to be Packers, to view, examine and weigh all such drest Hemp as shall be produced and offered for that Purpose, and if such Hemp appear to be good and merchantable, such Person so licenced shall and may pack and make up the same, and mark on each Package the Weight of the Hemp therein contained, and seal or stamp the same, with the Name of such Packer and the County in which he resides, or such other Impression as the said Trustees, or any five or more of them, shall think fit to appoint, and such Packer shall and may demand and take, any Sum to be appointed by the said Trustees, or any five or more of them, not exceeding Six-pence, for every hundred Weight of Hemp so packed and marked : And if any Person or Persons shall sell or expose to Sale, one hundred Weight or any greater Quantity of dressed Hemp of the Growth of this Kingdom, not being packed and marked

marked as aforesaid, all such Hemp shall be forfeited to the Person or Persons who shall seize the same, and inform thereof in Manner hereinafter mentioned: And that if any Person or Persons shall counterfeit the Seal or Stamp so as aforesaid appointed, for the said Lappers or Packers or any of them, [or shall alter the Figures or Stamps made upon any Piece or Pieces of Linen by the said Lappers to mark the Length or Breadth of the same,] such Person or Persons being thereof lawfully convicted, shall stand in the Pillory during the Space of two Hours, in the Forenoon, and shall forfeit the Sum of fifty Pounds to the Informer: And that if any Lapper [or Seal-Master] shall lap or stamp any Linen or Hempen Cloths, or any Packer of Hemp shall pack or stamp any Package of Hemp after Notice that his Seals or Stamps are ordered by the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, to be given up or not to be further used by him, every such Lapper, [Seal-Master,] or Packer shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of [Fifty\*] Pounds to the Informer, and that an Advertisement for that Purpose published two Times successively in the Dublin-Gazette, shall be sufficient Evidence against such Lapper, [Seal-Master,] or Packer, of such Order and Notice thereof: [And that if any Lapper, Seal-master, or Packer, whose Seals are ordered in, and Notice given of the same as aforesaid, does not, in two Months after such Notice is published,

\* We suppose "Five" is an Error in the Print, and that [Fifty] was here intended.



published, cause his Seals or Stamps to be delivered up to the Clerk of the Trustees for the Time being, such Lapper, Seal-master, or Packer, shall forfeit the Sum of fifty Pounds to the Informer. And if upon the Death of any Lapper, Seal-master, or Packer, his Executors, Administrators, or Securities, do not cause the Seals or Stamps which had been intrusted to him, to be given up to the Clerk of the Trustees in less than two Months after the Decease of such Lapper, Seal-master, or Packer, they shall forfeit the Sum of fifty Pounds:] And that if any Lapper [Seal-master,] or Packer shall sell or lend his Seals or Stamps, or suffer the same to be used by any other Person whatsoever, such Lapper or Packer so offending, shall for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of twenty Pounds to the Informer."

Many Lappers whose Seals are ordered to be given up do notwithstanding continue to use them, and the Law is evaded through the Difficulty of proving when they were used: For the producing a Piece or many Pieces of Cloth bearing the Stamp, will not prove any Thing sufficient. Such Cloth may be alledged to have been marked before the Stamp was called in; though that might have been many Years before. But the absolute Necessity of the Amendment proposed will appear from this, that almost no Seals are given up at all; even when the Lapper dies; and many such Seals are afterwards used by People who care not what they do with them; by which the Linen Manufacture may be discredited, and the Securities injured: And many Times the Seals are used after both the Lapper and his Securities are dead. A Man was lately sent to examine about such Matters; but it is a pitiable Case, that often-times the People employed in such Matters do not do their Duty, but are brought to wink at the Offences they are employed to detect; by which, People whose Seals have been ordered in, for Malpractices, instead of obeying such Order, continue to use them; and often-times make such an improper Use of them as is very detrimental to the Character of our Linens.

To

To continue Section 35 :

“ And whereas a Hall commonly called the Linen Hall hath been erected at the Expence of the Publick, within the Suburbs of the City of Dublin for the Reception of all such Linen Cloths as shall be lodged therein, in order to be sold :

“ And whereas several Buildings have been lately erected, at the Expence of the Publick, adjoining to the said Linen Hall, for the Reception of all such Linen Yarn as shall be brought there in order to be sold, and a Yarn Market hath been lately settled and established therein :

“ And whereas a Piece of Ground hath been lately purchased at the Expence of the Publick, near the said Linen Hall, and several Buildings are intended to be erected thereon, for the Reception of Flax and Hemp, in order to settle and establish therein a Market for Flax and Hemp ;

Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the said Trustees for the Time being, or the major Part of them present at any such Meeting, such major Part not being less than seven in Number, shall and may, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, make, constitute and appoint, such Rules, Orders and Directions, for Regulating, Governing and Directing, the said Linen Hall, Yarn Market, Flax and Hempen Market, and all Cloths, Yarn, Flax and Hemp, brought thereto or lodged therein, and all Factors, Officers, and Servants employed in or about the said Hall, Yarn Market, Flax and Hempen Market, as they the said Trustees or such major Part of them shall judge fitting and proper :  
And



And that the said Trustees, or such major Part of them, shall and may from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter, appoint such Officer or Officers, Factor or Factors, Servant or Servants, to attend and execute the Business of the said Hall, Yarn Market, Flax and Hemp Market, and out of the Duties granted for the Purposes of this Act, allow and pay them such Wages and Salaries as they the said Trustees or such major Part of them shall think fitting, not exceeding in the whole the Sum of one hundred and fifty Pounds per Annum: And that all and every such Officer and Officers, Factor and Factors, Servant and Servants, Lapper and Lappers, [Seal-Master and Seal-Masters,] Packer and Packers, as shall be appointed by the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, shall be subject to, and observe all such Rules, Orders and Directions, and under such Fines or Penalties, not exceeding the Sum of twenty Pounds, for any one Offence, as the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, shall direct and appoint; provided the same be not contrary to this Act: And that the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, may, and are hereby impowered, to take such Security or Securities, by Bond or otherwise, in their own Names, or in the Names of any one or more of them, or in the Name of their Clerk for the Time being, for the due Observance of all such Rules, Orders and Directions as aforesaid, by every such Officer, Factor, Servant, Lapper, [Seal-Master,] and Packer, respectively,

tively, as the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, shall direct and appoint: And that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, to administer to every such Officer, Factor, Servant, Lapper, [Seal-Master,] and Packer respectively, such Oath as they shall think proper, for the faithful Execution of their respective Offices; And that if any Complaint shall be made against such Officers, Factors, Servants, Lappers, [Seal-Masters] or Packers, or any of them, for any Fraud, Misbehaviour or Neglect, in his or their Office, that it shall be lawful to and for the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, on Examination of the Parties and such Witnesses upon Oath as shall be produced before them, which Oath the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, are hereby empowered to administer, finally to hear and determine the same, and to impose such Fine upon such Officers, Factors, Servants, Lappers, [Seal-Masters] or Packers, as the said Trustees for the Time being, or such five or more of them, shall judge fitting, to be paid to such Person or Persons as the said Trustees for the Time being, or such five or more of them, shall judge proper, not exceeding the Sum of Twenty Pounds for any one Offence."

To continue Sections 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th  
of 23d Geo. II.

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" And



“ And whereas the Trustees in the said recited Act mentioned, for encouraging the said Manufactures, are many in Number, and it is therefore difficult for them to prosecute or defend any Suit in Law or in Equity, upon any Contract or Agreement that they or any of them, or any Person or Persons by them appointed, for or in their Behalf, have or hath heretofore made or entered into, or may hereafter make or enter into;

“ Be it enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Trustees for the Time being, to commence and prosecute, and to defend, in the Name of their Clerk for the Time being, any Suit, either in Law or Equity, touching or concerning any Contract or Agreement heretofore made, or entered into, or hereafter to be made or entered into by the said Trustees, or any seven or more of them, or by any Person or Persons by them the said Trustees, or any seven or more of them, appointed for, and in their Behalf, and that all Suits and Proceedings in any Court of Law or Equity, in the Name of such Clerk, shall be good and effectual to all Intents and Purposes, as if such Suits and Proceedings had been commenced, prosecuted, defended or carried on in the Names of the said Trustees, or any of them; and in Case any Bill or Petition, shall be filed or exhibited in any Court of Equity against the said Trustees for the Time being, or any of them, or their Clerk for the Time being, for or on Account of any Matter or Thing by the said Trustees,

tees, or any of them, made or done in Execution of the Powers, Authorities or Trusts in them vested by the said recited Act, the said Trustees or any of them, shall not be obliged to answer such Bill or Petition, but the Answer of such Clerk to such Bill or Petition, shall be deemed and taken to be the Answer of the said Trustees, and shall be binding upon them to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever; and in Case such Clerk shall happen to die, or be removed whilst any such Suit shall be depending, that then, and in such Case such Suit shall not abate by the Death or Removal of such Clerk, but shall be carried on in the Name of the succeeding Clerk, and shall stand to all Intents and Purposes in the same Plight and Condition as it was in, immediately before such Death or Removal.

“ And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the said Trustees, or any three or more of them, shall and may meet the first Monday in every Month of May, August, November and February, yearly, at the Linen Hall in the City of Dublin, on the Purpose only of hearing and determining of all Offences that shall or may be committed against the said recited, or this present Act, by Lappers, [Seal-masters] Bleachers and Weavers, and that the said Trustees shall sit from Day to Day until all such Complaints are finally heard and determined, and that any Person or Persons, who shall think him, her or themselves aggrieved, may appeal to the next Meeting of the said Trustees, whose Determination therein, not



not being less than five of the said Trustees present, shall be final and conclusive.

“ Provided that nothing herein contained, shall abrogate any of the Powers by this or the said recited Act given to the said Trustees, Magistrates, or Justices of the Peace.”

And we further beg Leave to propose that a Clause be here added :

[To give the Trustees Power to do and perform the several Matters before mentioned, of licencing Overseers of Yarn Markets, Reed-makers, Buyers of Yarn and Cloth to sell again, &c. and every other Kind of Officer, through the whole Kingdom, that may be found needful: Without which we humbly conceive there will still remain in the Trade several great and pernicious Evils for which it is not otherwise in our Power to point out any adequate Remedy.]

And to take in, the last Clause of the late Linen Bill, continuing the Act of 27th Geo. II. for 21 Years, (which Act we suppose must be excepted in the general Repeal):

“ And whereas an Act made in the 27th Year of the Reign of his [late] Majesty King George the Second, entituled “ An Act for continuing, altering and amending the Laws in Relation to “ the Flaxen and Hempen Manufactures,” is near expiring; and it is necessary, for the Encouragement of the said Manufactures, that the same should be continued for a further Term:

“ We

“ We pray it may be Enacted, That the said last recited Act, and every Clause therein contained, shall be continued for twenty-one Years from the End of this present Session of Parliament, and from thence to the End of the then next Session of Parliament.”

The Act of the 27th of Geo. II. mentioned to be continued, is in the Words following :

**W**HEREAS by an Act of Parliament, made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, intituled, “ An Act to inforce such Acts as have been made for the Improvement of the Linen Manufacture, and for the further Regulation of the same,” an additional Duty of one Shilling and Six-pence per Yard was laid on all White, painted and stained Calicoes, and Six-pence per Yard on all Sorts of Linen which should be imported into this Kingdom within the Space of seven Years, commencing from the End of the then next Session of Parliament, and from the Expiration of the said Term of Seven Years to the End of the next Session of Parliament ensuing, to be applied to encourage the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures of this Kingdom, and to be subject to the Disposol, Order, and Management of the Trustees appointed for encouraging the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures of this Kingdom; which said Duties were further continued by an Act passed in the second Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the First, intituled, “ An Act for continuing the Encouragement given by former Acts of Parliament to the Flaxen and Hempen Manufactures, and for the further Improvement and Regulation of the same, during the Remainder of the said first Term of seven Years, and also during the further Term of seven Years, from the Expiration of the said former Term of seven Years, and from thence to the End of the Session of Parliament then next following ;” and which said Duties were further continued, but with an Exception to the Manufacture of Great Britain, by an Act passed in the tenth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the First, intituled, “ An Act for amending the several Laws now in Force for encouraging the Flaxen and Hempen Manufactures in this Kingdom, and for the further Improvement thereof.”

“ And whereas by an Act passed in the first Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Second, intituled, “ An Act for the further Improvement of the Flaxen and Hempen Manufactures of this Kingdom,” the said Duties were further continued, and an additional Duty of one Shilling and Six-pence per Yard was laid on all painted



painted and stained Muslins imported into this Kingdom; to be applied and disposed of in the same Manner with the said additional Duties on Calicoes and Linen :

“ And whereas the said Duties on Calicoes, Muslins and Linen have been by several Acts of Parliament continued, but will expire with the End of this present Session of Parliament, and it is necessary for the Support and Encouragement of the said Manufactures, that the said Duties should be continued for a further Term ;

“ Be it therefore Enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, that all White, painted and stained Calicoes, and all painted and stained Muslins, except such Calicoes and Muslins as are painted and stained in Great Britain, and all Sorts of Linen which shall be imported into this Kingdom, except they be of the Manufacture of Great Britain, or be painted or stained in Great Britain, at any Time within the Space of nine Years from the End of this present Session of Parliament, and from thence to the End of the Session of Parliament then next ensuing, shall answer and pay unto his Majesty the several Rates and Duties following, that is to say, one Shilling and Six-pence per Yard for every Yard of white, painted, and stained Calicoes, and painted and stained Muslins, except as aforesaid, which shall be imported into this Kingdom within the Time aforesaid, and Six-pence a Yard for every Yard of any Sort of Linen, except as aforesaid, which shall be imported into this Kingdom during the Time aforesaid; the said several Duties to be raised, levied, collected and paid to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, during the Continuance thereof, over and above all other Duties payable for the same by Virtue of an Act made in this Kingdom in the fourteenth and fifteenth Years of the Reign of King Charles the Second, intituled, “ An Act for settling the Excise or new Impost upon his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, according to the Book of Rates therein inserted ;” and by Virtue of one other Act made in the said fourteenth and fifteenth Years of the Reign of the said King Charles, intituled, “ An Act for settling the Subsidy of Poundage, and granting a Subsidy of Tunnage and other Sums of Money unto his Royal Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, the same to be paid upon Merchandizes imported and exported into or out of the Kingdom of Ireland, according to a Book of Rates hereunto annexed ;” and that the aforesaid respective Duties laid and imposed by this Act on all white, painted and stained Calicoes, and painted and stained Muslins and Linen Cloths, shall, during the Continuance thereof, be applied to the Use of the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures in this Kingdom, and to no other Use whatsoever ; and that the several Sums of Money arising from the said Duties so granted, shall from Time to Time be paid by the Vice Treasurer or the Receiver General of this Kingdom to the said Trustees for the Time being, upon a War-  
rant

rant under their Hands, or the Hands of any five or more of them, without any further or other Warrant to be sued for, had or obtained in that Behalf.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that no Drawback or Deventure shall be allowed, paid or given by any Collectors, or any other Officers of his Majesty's Revenue, to any Person or Persons for or on Account of Exporting of any Calicoe, Muslin, Holland, Sail-Cloth or Linen, whatsoever, out of this Kingdom, excepting such as are of the Manufacture of, or painted or stained in Great Britain; any former Law, Usage or Custom to the Contrary thereof, in any wise, notwithstanding.

“ And whereas, in order to encourage the Importation of good sound foreign Hempseed, and Flaxseed into this Kingdom, at easy and reasonable Rates, a Premium of five Shillings a Hogshead hath been granted and continued by several Acts of Parliament passed in this Kingdom, in the Reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, his late Majesty King George the first, and his present Majesty King George the Second, to whoever should import, or cause to be imported, into this Kingdom, any good and sound Hempseed, or Flaxseed, of the Growth of Russia, Germany, the Netherlands, the East Country, or any of the English Plantations in America, for several successive Terms of Years, the last whereof will expire with the End of this present Session of Parliament, and it hath been found by Experience that the best Hempseed and Flaxseed may be had from the Ports herein after mentioned, and that the said Encouragement for the Importation of good sound Hempseed and Flaxseed, should be continued for a further Term;

“ Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that whoever shall import, or cause to be imported, into this Kingdom, any good and sound Hempseed or Flaxseed from any Port in Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Prussia, Germany, or any Port on the Baltick Sea, or within the Sound, or from Hamburg or Altena, or any of the English Plantations in America within the Space of nine Years from the End of this present Session of Parliament, and from thence to the End of the then next succeeding Session of Parliament, shall receive for every Hogshead of such Hempseed or Flaxseed as a Premium the Sum of five Shillings, Sterling, to be paid by such Officer or Officers, and in such Manner as Drawbacks are usually paid; provided that during the said Term of nine Years, and until the End of the then succeeding Session of Parliament, every Merchant who shall export any Hempseed or Flaxseed shall, for every Hogshead thereof so exported, pay five Shillings Custom to the King, his Heirs and Successors, unless Oath be made before the Commissioners, Sub-Commissioners or Officer of the Port where such Flaxseed and Hempseed shall be exported, that the same was of the Growth of this Kingdom; and that no Person shall be intitled to receive such Premium until he hath made Oath before the Collector



Collector of the Customs in the Port where such Seed shall be imported, expressing the Name of the Country from whence he believes the same was imported, and that he verily believes the same to be sound and good, and of the Growth of the Summer then next preceding. ♦

“ And whereas in order to encourage the raising of Flaxseed and Flax in this Kingdom, a Premium of one Shilling a Bushel hath been granted and continued by several Acts of Parliament passed in this Kingdom, in the Reign of his present Majesty, for every Bushel of good, sound, merchantable Flaxseed of the Growth of this Kingdom, sent on Ship-board, from the Southern Part of this Kingdom, to the Northern Part thereof, for several successive Terms of Years, the last whereof will expire with the End of this present Session of Parliament, and the Continuance of the said Premium for a further Term will greatly increase the Linen Manufacture;

“ Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that for the Space of nine Years from the End of this present Session of Parliament, and from thence to the End of the then next Session of Parliament, when good, sound, and merchantable Flaxseed of the Growth of this Kingdom is or shall be put on Ship-board, in sound Casks, at Dundalk, or any other Port of this Kingdom, southward thereof, by any Merchant or other Person or Persons who shall make Oath before the Collector, Surveyor, or Land-waiter of such Port, who are hereby impowered and required to administer the same, that he to the best of his Skill and Knowledge believes the said Seed to be sound and good, and that no Premium was ever received thereon, and that the same is of the Growth of this Kingdom, the Collector of the Port where the Seed shall be put on Ship-board, as aforesaid, shall, on Oath made as aforesaid, give, without Fee or Reward, unto such Person or Persons as aforesaid, a Certificate, wherein, shall be expressed the Quantity of Seed so shipped, and the Number of sound Casks wherein the same is contained, and the Day of the Month, and the Year when the same was shipped, and that Oath has been made before him, as aforesaid, that then every such Person and Persons upon landing the said Seed in sound Casks in any Port of this Kingdom, five Leagues or more Northward of the said Port of Dundalk, and delivering the said Certificate, and making Oath before the Collector, Surveyor, or Land-waiter of the Port, that the said Seed, so landed, is the same Seed mentioned in the said Certificate, which Oath the Collector, Surveyor or Land-waiter of the Port is hereby impowered and required to administer, and upon Bond being given by every such Merchant or other Person, in the Sum of twenty Shillings, for every Barrel of such Flaxseed, and so in Proportion for every greater Quantity, that the Seed is good, sound, and merchantable Flaxseed of the Growth of this Kingdom, and shall not be re-landed, or sent into any Port of this Kingdom more South than five Leagues North of Dundalk, shall be entitled to, and Receive from the Collector

lector of the Port where the same is landed, as a Premium, the Sum of one Shilling for every Bushel so landed, Clear and Free of all Duties payable upon the Export of Flax-Seed, to be paid by such Officer or Officers in such Manner as Drawbacks are usually paid.

## SEAL-MASTERS.

WE pray it may be Enacted, That no Seal-Master shall presume to buy or offer Money for, or suffer to be bought at his House, any Brown Linen that shall come there to be sealed, on any Pretence whatsoever; under Penalty of forfeiting the Value of the Linen so bought: And whosoever shall sell or expose to Sale any Piece of Brown Linen at any Seal-master's House, shall also forfeit such Piece of Linen so sold or exposed to Sale, to the first real Informer.

And that every White and Brown Seal-Master shall measure all Linen Cloth which he or they shall seal, with a Yard of thirty-six Inches, and no more; and shall give, in measuring, an Inch at the End of each Yard, and no more; and shall, agreeable to this Standard, give just and sufficient Measure, and no more; upon Pain of forfeiting to the Informer, for every Offence committed contrary to the true Intent and Meaning hereof, the Sum of forty Shillings.

And we would humbly take the Liberty to recommend, that a Reel or Machine (like that invented and made by William Andrews of Rich-hill, recommended by Sir Archibald Acheson and a Number of Linen Drapers, and laid



before the Board) may be ordered to be set up in each Market Town, to serve for a Standard in all Cases of Dispute about Measure.

We take upon us to assert, that there is far from being any general Cause of Complaint, with Regard to the Measure given by Brown Seal-masters: Several of us have not got a short Piece in many Hundreds we have bought; and where an Instance of a short Piece happens (perhaps by a few Inches only) the Seal-masters are generally very ready to make good the Deficiency to whoever will be so kind as to inform them of it; so that we apprehend there has been very little Occasion to trouble the Board with Complaints on this Head. The greatest Reason, in our Opinion, for Complaints against Brown Seal-Masters, is, that some of them have sealed Fine Laps, and at more than a Yard from the End: But the People who complain most about the Measure, have not been heard to complain about this Practice. It is not to be expected, however, but that these People will still go on to cry out about the Measure; and it is in Order to stop their Clamour, rather than from any Necessity there appears to us to keep the Seal-Masters to their Duty in this Particular, that we take the Liberty of recommending the Machine above-mentioned.

We pray it may be Enacted, that no Brown Seal-Master shall seal any White Linen; and that no White Seal-Master shall seal any Brown Linen; under a Penalty of twenty Shillings for every such Offence.

We further pray, that all Damages, either in Brown Linens, or White, which do not render them unmerchantable, (concerning which, the Trustees are to judge, and give their Orders to Lappers or Seal-Masters) shall be fairly exposed in the Lap or Bosom of the Piece, so as that the same may be easily seen; under a Penalty of ten Times the Damage so concealed. And that no Lapper or Seal-Master shall put up two or more  
**Pieces**

Pieces of Linen, so as to seem only one Piece; under a Penalty of 5 l. for every such Offence.

N. B. This takes in the Substance of the tenth Clause of the late Linen Bill, and will, as we humbly apprehend, answer every good End that could have been obtained by that Clause.

And we pray it may be enacted, that from and after the Power of determining all Differences between the Buyer and Brown Seal-Master, be vested in the Magistrates (if that be not already sufficiently done,) and that they be not only impowered, but commanded to determine immediately upon all Complaints: Provided always, that if the Party aggrieved chuses not to take that Method, he may have Relief at Law as at present.

By the 33d of Geo. II. Seal-Masters are subjected to a Penalty of 5 l. for every Offence committed against any Act then in Being; by which Means every Man in the Trade, honest, as well as dishonest, might ever since have been easily ruined at any Time; as they were all, in a lesser or greater Degree, necessarily involved in the Breach of some of the Acts. From hence will appear the great Importance of framing every Law in such a Manner, as that Obedience may be practicable; for otherwise many innocent Persons may be hurt, and the Laws will, and must, be broke through, which of Consequence will tend to introduce a total Neglect and Contempt of all Law. And we humbly apprehend that in all Cases, but especially with regard to the Brown Seal-masters, the Penalties should be made small, and so laid as that they may be easily and punctually recovered.

And whereas there has an evil Practice prevailed in some Places, of making and stamping the outside Lap or Fold much finer and better than any of the inside Folds; and of making coarse, bad, and defective Folds, and concealing the



the same, to the great Discredit and Prejudice of the Linen Manufacture of this Kingdom; We would therefore, as a most easy and effectual Remedy against such Frauds, pray that it may be Enacted, That from and after every Piece of Brown Linen made up for Sale in this Kingdom, by any Lapper, Seal-Master, Weaver, or other Person whatever, shall be made up in Folds beginning from one of the Ends thereof; and every single Piece of such Linen not more than twenty-five Yards, shall be made up into Folds not exceeding twenty-seven Inches in each Fold; and every double, or other Piece of such Linen, not exceeding Fifty Yards, shall be in Folds not exceeding thirty-six Inches in each Fold\*; and every Piece of Linen containing more than Fifty Yards, shall be in Folds not exceeding forty-five Inches; and none of such Folds on either Sides, shall be inclosed or involved, or what is commonly called locked; and every first or outside Fold shall begin from one of the Ends of such Piece, which End shall not be folded in, in any Manner; and every Seal-Master shall affix a fair Impression of his Seal on the Middle of such Fold, at a Distance not more than thirteen Inches and a half from the End of all such Pieces as are to be made in Folds not exceeding twenty-seven Inches, and at not more than eighteen Inches from the End in all such Pieces as are to be made in Folds not exceeding thirty-six Inches,

\* The Law now in Being extends only to Linens of 36 and 38 Inches wide; but should equally, and for the same Reasons, include all Kinds of Linens: which is therefore hereby intended.

as aforesaid; and at not more than twenty-two Inches and a Half from the End, in all such Pieces as are to be in Folds not exceeding forty-five Inches; and every such Piece when exposed to Sale, shall have such Impression of the Lapper's Seal on the Back or Outside of the Piece; and if any Lapper, Seal-Master, or Weaver, or any other Person whatsoever, shall make up or seal any Brown Linen, otherwise than as aforesaid, or sell or expose the same to Sale; or if any Buyer, Merchant, or other Person or Persons, shall buy or offer Money for any Piece of Brown Linen Cloth made up or sealed otherwise than as aforesaid, every such Person or Persons so offending, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning hereof, shall forfeit to the Informer, the Sum of forty Shillings for every such Offence: And (to the End that no Fold used as an outside Fold in Brown Linen, shall again be used as an outside Fold when the Linen is white) that no White Seal-Master shall presume, on any Pretence whatsoever, to seal any Piece of white or bleached Linen, in any Lap or Fold which shall not be more than a Yard and a Half from the End of such Piece; upon Pain of forfeiting to the Informer 5 l. for every such Offence.



## CUSTOMS, TOLLS, &amp;c.

WE humbly recommend to continue 41st  
Section of 19th George II.

“ And be it further enacted by the Authority  
aforesaid, that no Toll, Custom or Duty what-  
soever, shall be paid for any Linen or Hempen  
Cloth, Linen or Hempen Yarn, Hempleed,  
Flaxseed, Hemp, Flax, Pot Ashes, Looms,  
Wheels, Reels or Hatchels, for or by Reason of  
their being brought to any Market or Fair, or  
for the Passage of them or any of them over  
any Bridge, or through any Town or Place  
whatsoever, Turnpike Gates only excepted; and  
that if any Person or Persons shall demand, ex-  
act or take any Toll, Custom or Duty contrary  
to the true Intent and Meaning hereof, every  
Person so offending, shall, for every such Of-  
fence, forfeit the Sum of forty Shillings to the  
Informer.”

To continue 46th Section of 19th George II.

“ And be it further enacted by the Authority  
aforesaid, that there shall be paid no Duty what-  
ever to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors,  
for or on account of the exporting of any Flaxen  
or Hempen Cloth, made or manufactured with-  
in this Kingdom, and that no Duty shall be de-  
manded, levied or raised, for or by Reason of the  
importing

importing any foreign Pot-Ashes, or Wood-Ashes, or any Holland, Russia, or Muscovy Flaxseed, or Hempseed, or any Loom or Looms, to the Use and Behoof of his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors."

And also Sect. 2d of 23d of George II.

"And whereas by an Act of Parliament passed in England, in the third and fourth Years of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, intituled, "An Act to permit the Exportation of Irish Linen Cloth to the Plantations, and to prohibit the Importation of Scotch Linen into Ireland;" it was enacted, that it should be lawful to import from Ireland, directly to the British Plantations, all Sorts of White and Brown Linen Cloth, being the proper Manufacture of Ireland, under the Restrictions and Conditions in the said Act mentioned, for the Term of eleven Years; which Act by one other Act passed in Great-Britain, in the first Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the first, intituled, "An Act for continuing several Laws therein mentioned, relating to Coals, Hemp and Flax, Irish and Scotch Linen; and the Assize of Bread; and for giving Power to adjourn the Quarter Sessions of the County of Anglesey for the Purposes therein mentioned," was continued for one Year, and from thence to the End of the next Session of Parliament.

"And whereas by one other Act passed in Great Britain, in the third Year of the Reign of his said late



late Majesty, King George the First, intituled,  
“ An Act for continuing the Liberty of export-  
“ ing Irish Linen Cloth, to the British Plantati-  
“ ons in America, Duty free ; and for the more  
“ effectual Discovery of, and prosecuting such  
“ as shall unlawfully export Wool and Woollen  
“ Manufactures from Ireland ; and for Relief of  
“ John Fletcher, in Respect of the Duty by him  
“ paid, for a Quantity of Salt lost, in Exporta-  
“ tion for Ireland ;” it is enacted, that the said  
recited Act of the Third and Fourth Years of  
Queen Anne, so far forth as the same relates to  
the Exportation of Irish Linen Cloths, to the  
said British Plantations, should be, and was  
thereby continued in full Force, so long as the  
Merchants and other Persons of Great Britain,  
were or should be permitted to import into Ire-  
land, free from all Duties, such White and Brown  
British Linen Cloth, as should be made and ma-  
nufactured in Great Britain.

“ And whereas by an Act passed in this King-  
dom in the fourteenth and fifteenth Years of  
King Charles the Second, intituled, “ An Act  
“ for Settling of the Excise or New Impost upon  
“ his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, accord-  
“ ing to the Book of Rates therein inserted ;”  
and by another Act passed in this Kingdom in  
the said fourteenth and fifteenth Years of his  
said late Majesty King Charles the Second, in-  
tituled, “ An Act for Settling the Subsidy of  
“ Poundage, and Granting a Subsidy of Tun-  
“ nage, and other Sums of Money, unto his  
“ Royal Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, the  
“ same

“ same to be paid upon Merchandizes imported  
“ and exported into, or out of the Kingdom of  
“ Ireland, according to a Book of Rates hereun-  
“ to annexed;” all British Linen Cloths im-  
ported into this Kingdom, were subjected to  
certain Duties referred to, or mentioned in the  
said Acts.

“ Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid,  
that it shall and may be lawful to and for all  
Merchants, and other Person and Persons of  
Great Britain, to import into this Kingdom, all  
Sorts of White and Brown British Linen Cloths,  
that are or shall be made and manufactured in  
Great Britain, free, exempted, and discharged  
of and from all Duties whatsoever, imposed or  
set on the same by the said Acts, or any other  
Act or Acts of Force in this Kingdom, so long  
and during such Time as it shall be and conti-  
nue lawful to export from this Kingdom directly  
to the British Plantations, all Sorts of White and  
Brown Linen Cloth of the Manufacture of this  
Kingdom, on such Terms, Conditions and Limi-  
tations, as in the said recited Act of the Third  
and Fourth Years of Queen Anne, are limited  
and appointed, and no longer.”

**METHODS of determining OFFENCES.**

TO continue Sections 42, 43, 44, and 45, of  
19th Geo. II.

“ And be it Enacted by the Authority afore-  
said, That all Offences committed against any



## 86 *Methods of determining Offences.*

Clause or Article in this present Act mentioned, except where the same are hereby particularly appointed to be heard or determined, and except where the Penalty does or may exceed the Sum of six Pounds\*, shall and may be heard and finally determined by the said Trustees for the Time being, or any two or more of them, or by any one or more Justice or Justices of the Peace or chief Magistrate of any City or Town Corporate within their respective Jurisdictions; and that all Offences and Breaches committed of or against any Clause or Article in this present Act mentioned, where the Penalty doth or may exceed the Sum of six Pounds, except where the same are hereby particularly appointed to be determined, shall and may be heard and finally determined by the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them; and that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said several Persons hereby impowered to hear and determine the said Offences respectively, to examine upon Oath all and every such Witness and Witnesses, as shall be produced before them respectively, upon any Complaint or Information to him or them made, of any Offence committed against this Act, and to issue their Warrants respectively, to any one or more Constable or Constables, requiring and impowering him or them by Distress and Sale of the Offenders Goods (the Overplus whereof shall be rendered to the Owner or Owners) to levy the respective Penalties by

\* Made six Pounds by 23d of Geo. II.

such Offenders incurred, which when levied, shall be paid to such Person or Person as are herein before particularly mentioned to be intitled to the same respectively, first deducting thereout the Sum of two Shillings in the Pound, to be paid to the Constable or Constables for executing such Warrant; and in Case no sufficient Distress can be found, then and in every such Case, it shall and may be lawful to and for the several Persons hereby impowered, to hear and determine the said Offences respectively, and by their respective Warrants to commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction, or next Gaol, for so long Time as they shall respectively think proper, not exceeding six Months in the whole; and that when any Linen Cloth shall be determined to be forfeited, for not being made pursuant to the Directions aforesaid, the Person or Persons so determining the same to be forfeited, shall and may order and cause such Cloth to be cut, and severed into three equal Parts, before the same shall be delivered to the Informer. And that if any Action or Suit shall be commenced or brought against any Person whatsoever, for doing or causing to be done any Thing in Pursuance hereof, the Defendant in such Action may plead the general Issue, and give the Matter in special Evidence; and if upon such Action Judgment be given for the Defendant, or the Plaintiff become Nonsuite or discontinue his Action, then the Defendant shall have treble Costs.

“Provided.



“ Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend to charge any Person or Persons with any Penalty, Forfeiture or Punishment, for or concerning any Offence to be done contrary to the Tenor of this Act, or of any of the Branches or Articles of the same, unless he or they so offending be informed against, or complained of, to the Person or Persons hereby empowered to determine the said Offences, within six Months after such Offence shall be done and committed.

“ Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the Appointments of all such Officers, Factors, Servants, Lappers, [Seal-masters] and Packers, as have been already made by the said Trustees, and all such Rules, Orders and Directions, as have been already made by the said Trustees, and all such Contracts as have been already entered into by the said Trustees, or by any Person or Persons by their Order, and for, and on their Behalf, pursuant to the Powers vested in them by the said recited Acts or any of them, shall have the same Force and Effect to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had never been made; any thing herein before contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

“ And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Trustees for the Time being, in the Name of their Clerk for the Time being, to sue for in a summary Way by Civil Bill, before the Judges of Assize in their respective Circuits, and

at

at the Sessions in the County of Dublin, and recover against all and every Lapper and Lappers, [Seal-master and Seal-masters] and his and their Security and Securities, and all and every Packer and Packers of Hemp, all such Sum and Sums of Money, as have been imposed since the first Day of May, One thousand seven hundred and forty, or shall be from Time to Time hereafter imposed by the said Trustees for the Time being, or any five or more of them, by Way of Fine or Penalty, on such Lapper or Lappers, [Seal-Master or Seal-Masters,] and that Copies of the Orders of the said Trustees whereby such Clerk is appointed, and whereby such Fine or Fines, Penalty or Penalties, have been or shall be imposed, taken from the Books of the said Trustees, and signed by such Clerk for the Time being, shall be respectively taken, deemed and adjudged, full and sufficient Evidence, that such Person is their Clerk, and that such Fine and Fines, or Penalty or Penalties, have been so imposed. Provided nevertheless, that no such Civil Bill shall be brought for Recovery of any greater or larger Sum than the Sum of twenty Pounds."

The 18th and 19th Clauses of the late Linen Bill might also be taken in; though we fear the empowering Magistrates to imprison for six Months, at their Discretion, where the Fines cannot be discharged (which will often be the Case) is rather too severe.

With Regard to the further Methods of recovering by Law for Frauds and Damages com-



mitted and done by Lappers or Seal-Masters ;—  
To continue Sect. 9th of the 23d of Geo. II.

“ And whereas many Abuses are committed by Weavers, Bleachers and Lappers, and the fixing a certain Time and Place for hearing and determining in a summary Way, the Offences against the said recited Act, and this present Act, will greatly contribute to bring such Offenders to Justice, and the giving the Fines to arise from such Offences to the Informer, will also contribute to the Benefit of the Publick ;

“ Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all Penalties hereafter to be inflicted on any Weaver or Bleacher, for any Offence that shall be committed against the said recited or this present Act, may be recovered by Civil Bill by the Party intituled to the same, in the same Manner as Fines inflicted or laid upon Lappers are to be recovered by the said recited Act.”

To continue Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, of 31st Geo. II.

“ Whereas several Frauds have been committed by [Seal-Masters and] Lappers, which the present Laws are not sufficient to prevent, which may in Time lessen the Credit of the Linen Manufacture in foreign Markets ; Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Merchant, or Dealer in Linens, shall sustain any Loss or Damage, by Means of any Fraud, in the Lapping of Linen, and by Damages concealed in the Lapping thereof, or by short Measure concealed in  
Length

Length or Breadth; such Merchant or Dealer, may sue either the Lapper of such Linen, or the Security or Securities which such Lapper gave on taking out his Seals, or either of them, and may recover from such Lapper, or his Securities, double the Loss or Damage which he shall so sustain, the same to be recovered; if under twenty Pounds, by Civil Bill, at the Assizes in the County where such Lapper, or his Security resides; and if the Sum exceeds twenty Pounds, the same shall be recovered in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record in Dublin.

“ Provided, that if the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture shall have fined such Lappers so offending, and recovered the Fine, or Penalty, imposed by Virtue of the Law now in being for that Purpose, before such Suit commenced; that in such Case, such Lapper, or his Security, shall not be sued for such Damage as aforesaid.

“ And whereas it may be difficult for such Merchant or Dealer, in such Suit, or on such Trial, to prove who are the Security or Securities of such Lapper or Lappers, as the Bonds of such Securities are lodged in the Hands of the Clerk of the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture; Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the Certificate of such Clerk of the said Trustees, under his Hand and Seal (which Certificate, the said Clerk shall be obliged to give to any such Merchant or Dealer) shall be Evidence against the Security or Securities of any Lapper or Lappers.

“ And



“ And provided also, that no greater Sum shall be recovered, from such Security or Securities, than the Amount of the Penalty of the Bond, perfected by him or them on becoming Security.”

To continue Sections, 6, 7, and 8, of 33d Geo. II.---altered, as follow:

“ And whereas frauds are frequently committed by Lappers [or Seal-Masters,] notwithstanding the several Laws now in Force to prevent the same, and the Trouble and Expence in recovering the Fines and Penalties, or Damages for such Frauds against such Lappers [or Seal-Masters] and their Securities, is an Encouragement to the Practice of such Frauds; Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that in every Suit or Action, by Civil Bill or otherwise, against any Lapper [or Seal-master] or his Security, a Certificate of the Clerk for the Time being of the Trustees for encouraging the Hempen and Linen Manufactures of this Kingdom, under the Hand and Seal of such Clerk, shall be taken, deemed, and adjudged full and sufficient Evidence, that such Person is their Clerk, and that the Fine or Fines, Penalty or Penalties, in such Certificate contained, hath or have been duly imposed by the said Trustees on the Lappers [or Seal-masters] therein mentioned, and that the Person or Persons therein mentioned to be Lapper or Lappers [Seal-master or Seal-masters,] has, or have been duly appointed a Lapper or Lappers [Seal-master or Seal-masters] by the said Trustees,

Trustees, and hath, or have acted as such in the several Matters therein contained, and that the Persons in such Certificate mentioned as Trustees, were duly appointed Trustees for encouraging the Hempen and Linen Manufactures of this Kingdom.

“ And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after                      no Person or Persons shall buy or offer Money for, sell, or expose to Sale, pack or make up for Exportation, export, or cause to be exported, any Linen or Hempen Cloth, until the same shall be viewed and inspected, measured and sealed, as by this present Act is directed. And if any Lapper or Lappers, [Seal-master or Seal-masters] that now are or hereafter shall be appointed by the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture, shall seal or stamp any Piece or Pieces of Linen Cloth, not made according to the several Rules and Directions contained in the aforesaid Act, or shall mark on the same a greater Number of Yards than each Piece containeth in Length, or shall mark the same as of greater Breadth than it really is, or conceal therein any Frauds, or commit any other Offence in Relation to the Premises, such Lapper or Lappers, [Seal-Master or Seal-Masters,] his or their Security or Securities, so offending, being thereof duly convicted on the Oath of one or more credible Witness or Witnesse, or the Party aggrieved, and producing the Stamp or Seal of each Piece of Linen, shall not only make good the Damages to the Party who bought the Cloth on the Credit of the Stamp



or Seal, but shall likewise forfeit the Sum of five Pounds Sterling, for every insufficient Piece of Cloth so stamped, sealed, or wrong marked, as aforesaid, for the Use of the Informer or Prosecutor; the said Penalty or Penalties to be recovered, if under twenty Pounds, by Civil Bill, at the Assizes in the County where such Lapper [or Seal-Master,] or his Security resides; and if the Sum exceeds twenty Pounds, the same shall be recovered in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record in Dublin, and the Lapper [or Seal-Master] shall be dismissed from his Office as Lapper, [or Seal-Master] and rendered incapable of serving in any such Office for the future.

“ Provided always, that if the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture shall have fined such Lappers [or Seal-Masters] or their Securities so offending, and recover the Fine or Penalty so imposed, by Virtue of the Laws now in Being for that Purpose, before such Suit be commenced, that in such Case, such Lapper, [or Seal-Master] or his Security, shall not be sued for such Damages as aforesaid.

“ And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after                      if any Person [shall buy or offer Money for, or] shall sell or expose to Sale, pack or make up for Importation, export or cause to be exported, any Linen or Hempen Cloth, [or any Manufacture made of Linen or Hempen Yarn,] not being stamped, sealed or marked as by this present Act is required, such Person or Persons shall forfeit the Sum of five Pounds Sterling, for each Piece of Cloth

Cloth so [bought or offered Money for,] sold, or exposed to Sale, packed or made up for Exportation, exported, or caused to be exported as aforesaid, over and above all other Penalties inflicted by the said recited Act, to whoever shall sue for the same by Civil Bill."

It seems to be but just and equitable, that the Buyer of Unsealed Linen, whether Brown or White, should be made liable to the Penalty, as well as the Seller: Besides, it will also become more effectual to procure Obedience to the Laws, than the laying the Penalty as at present on the Seller only.

And we humbly recommend that some such Clause as the following, formed from one of the British Acts, be here introduced:

" And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that if any Justice or Justices of the Peace, or Magistrate or Magistrates, shall neglect or refuse to execute the Powers and Authorities of this Act, or shall not put the same into Execution, according to the true Intent and Meaning thereof (to the Discouragement of the Linen Manufacture) [such Neglect or Refusal, or Malversation, shall be, and be taken a Point of Dittay, and] it shall and may be lawful to and for the Person or Persons aggrieved thereby, to prosecute the said Justice or Justices of the Peace, Magistrate or Magistrates, before a Judge of Assize on his Circuit for the District within which the Offence was committed. And if the said Justice or Justices of the Peace, Magistrate or Magistrates, shall be thereupon convicted of such Offence, it shall and may be lawful for the said Judge of Assize



Affize on his Circuit, to set a Fine on said offending Justice or Justices of the Peace, or Magistrate or Magistrates not exceeding one hundred Pounds Sterling.

“ And it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, that all Justices of the Peace and Magistrates, shall interpret and put this Act into Execution, in the most beneficial Manner, for promoting the Linen and Hempen Manufactures; and if any of the said Justices of the Peace or Magistrates, shall wilfully neglect or refuse to execute the Powers and Authorities committed to them by this or any former Act, so that such Neglect or Refusal shall tend to the Discouragement or Detriment of the said Manufacture, the Person or Persons so offending, may be prosecuted before, and punished by, the Judge of Assize, in manner prescribed in this Act.”

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### **The CONCLUSION.**

**W**E will beg leave to conclude with some Observations, concerning the Necessity of having our Laws duly executed, and of supporting, and enforcing universally the late wise and important Regulations.

Our Linen Laws, until very lately, have been in many Cases strangely neglected; and the Evils arising therefrom have been so great; and so many, as to call aloud for our utmost Efforts to remove them, as well as to prevent the Return of them for the future. If any Gentleman has not had an Opportunity of being made acquainted with such Matters, and would desire to be fully informed, with regard to the Nature of the Evils which have prevailed in the Linen Trade, through a Neglect of the Laws; We would humbly recommend to his Perusal, the Reviews published upon that Subject, and presented

presented to the Trustees at the Time the late Application was made for the Crisping and Sealing of Brown Linen.—This is an Affair in which, as we humbly conceive, every Gentleman who has any permanent Property in this Kingdom, is deeply interested; and this, not only in the Parts where the Linen Trade has already obtained, but in every Place also where it may for the future be introduced; for the same Causes will at all Times naturally and uniformly produce the same Effects; and the same Evils that we have experienced, must in all Places prevail, where the Laws shall be in the same Manner neglected.

But the Assistance of those who are armed with Power to execute the Laws, will appear the more necessary, when we consider the Behaviour of Numbers of People in the Trade, even since the Trustees formed the late Regulations to carry the Laws into Execution.—For tho' the Evils abovementioned were become intolerable, so as to endanger the general Character of our Manufacture, and to threaten the total Ruin of the Trade, yet many of the People concerned therein, thro' the meanest and most sordid Views, not only endeavoured to oppose the Laws, but continue yet openly to disobey them; tho' their Guilt and Folly herein, and the mischievous Consequences to the Publick, have been so often and so openly displayed, that no Person but such as were void of every liberal Principle, none that could be moved even with a Sense of Shame, could have continued their Opposition in the open Face of the World, and made Use of such mean and unworthy Expedients, to counter-act Laws which were become so essentially necessary to preserve even themselves and their Country from Destruction.

This Opposition was plainly foreseen and accounted for in a Passage of the Pamphlet already referred to; which, after having enumerated the several different Causes that would operate to prevent the proposed Alterations, concludes as follows:

“As Covetousness, therefore, and Selfishness, Folly and Prejudice, Fraud and Villany, will all be combined to oppose these Regulations—if the People in Authority do not exert themselves, in their respective Towns and Estates, and declare before-hand that they are determined to do so, there will be too much Reason to fear, that the Laws will be again spurned at and overthrown, that the supreme Authority will again be insulted.—And if this unhappily turns out to be the Case, how can we by any other Means expect a Remedy, or that ever the Authority of the Laws will again be held sacred? We may then give up all pleasing Hopes of extending the Trade, and look forward with a dismal Apprehension that no further Attempt will ever be made to recover it, but Things be left to themselves to grow worse and worse; and if the Support and Encouragement hitherto afforded us, should thro' our growing unworthy of it, or by any other Means be withdrawn, the Trade must receive a Blow when, instead of being able to support itself,



it may be ready to sink under the Weight of its own Corruption."

What was therein so plainly predicted, has already in Part come to pass, as we have since seen: for excepting the Parts which were within the Reach or Influence of the People concerned in the Remonstrance; in all other Places, where the Magistrate and People in Power did not exert themselves, the Regulations of the Board did not fully take Place;—and in some Places which were in Part reformed, they are now falling back again very fast into the former Practices.—And though there can be no Doubt but that there are many honest Men concerned in the Trade in all Parts of the Country, who would cheerfully obey the Laws, and with the Help of active Magistrates, carry them into Execution; yet we see in those Parts where the Laws are still disobeyed, either that the Majority are Men of contrary Characters, or else that ~~these~~ <sup>these</sup> are more active and zealous to oppose the Laws, than the ~~others~~ <sup>others</sup> are to enforce them.—And indeed when we consider how very few there are, even amongst the Best, who will interest themselves zealously, and with such a Degree of Spirit, as is necessary to Effect any Thing in these Affairs; we will still see the greater Necessity for providing the easiest Methods to have the Laws executed, that the few who have the firm Zeal to correct Enormities, and to be watchful for the publick Welfare, may be furnished with the readiest Means to have their Purposes carried into Execution, and their Labours turned to a good Account for the Benefit of their Country.

The strange Things that have happened amongst us, and the Evil Spirit that is yet up, causes us humbly to take the Liberty of being the more plain and particular on this Subject. We see indeed from what is past, that we have Reasons to entertain the most pleasing Hopes from the favourable Attention and Activity of the Honourable Board of Trustees; But we have Reason to fear at the same Time, that the Enemies of the late Regulations will do every Thing they can to prevent a happy Settlement of the present Business; lest That should put it out of their Power any longer to practise Frauds in the White Markets, and impose on the poor People in the Brown. For our Parts, it is with Pleasure we reflect, that we have been labouring all along to have such a Power taken out of the Hands of that very Class to which we belong, as well as to have the Penalties made greater, and the Laws drawn tighter about us, in all Cases of Fraud or Disobedience.—And as we have asked for nothing particularly beneficial for ourselves, we hope we can with the better Countenance petition for a more due and regular Execution of the Laws.

And we take the greater Liberty of dwelling upon this Point, for this further Reason, that if the great Reformation which has already been so happily made, be not supported and made general; if selfish designing Men, by false and artful Representations be able to create an Interest, so as to effect in any Degree their pernicious Designs; the Effects

Effects at this particular Time may be critical, and the Kingdom may receive an Injury it may never again be able to recover. The Discouragements which the Few active People have hitherto met with, have already been as much as they were well able to bear;—and nothing perhaps but the favourable Countenance of the Board, and of Consequence, the Success of their honest Designs, could have kept up their Zeal to the Pitch that was necessary.—If their Opposers succeed in any material Point, (and it will be in such only they will employ their Strength and Interest) it may discourage, or perhaps break the Spirit hitherto kept up; and such an Exertion as the past can hardly again be expected; or that any OTHER Few will arise who will again begin, and labour through such a Business, with that Zeal and Perseverance which these have already exerted.

But if the Reformation be fully supported, and made universal, the happy Effects will every where quickly appear, and the Gentlemen of Property will find their Account in it. In short, as the greatest Part of the Profits arising from the Manufacture ultimately centers in the Landed Interest, and still must continue to do so in the most flourishing State of the Trade; we can with the greater Confidence express our humble Hopes of the Continuance of that Countenance from the Board, which has hitherto been so favourably afforded us;—and that nothing will be suffered to be done amongst us, which may prevent that compleat Reformation, which has been so long and so faithfully laboured for; but that the true Interests of the Trade will be effectually and universally promoted, the Laws for the good Government of it properly settled, and Care taken for the future, that they may be duly and regularly executed.

**T H E E N D.**





An APPENDIX to the Papers presented to the  
Linen-Board, by the Linen-Drapers in and  
near the Town of Lisburn. March, 1763.

**T**HERE is another Matter remains yet to be mentioned, which appears to us to merit the most serious Consideration; and that is, the very improper Manner we have unluckily fallen into, of Lapping or making up our White Linen for Sale. Our Fear of proposing too many Changes at once, made us backward in mentioning this; but the great Necessity of a Reform in this Particular, as well as in others, powerfully urges us not to pass it over; and therefore we have further taken the Liberty, humbly to state it as follows.

The two different Methods used in making up White Linens are, Lapping, and Clipping (as it is called), in the round Way;—And, Folding and Pressing in the flat Way. The former is generally used among Us;—the latter among Foreigners.

From a particular View of both, Our Method may be plainly made appear to be greatly inferior to the Other, with regard to Propriety and Convenience, and this on many different Accounts.

Ours is a most preposterous Method of making up Linens, either for Sale or Carriage,—either for opening by a Retailer, and displaying the Folds of the Linen to Advantage on a Counter; or for packing by the wholesale Merchant for Shipping or Conveyance by Land.—First after they are folded, they are rolled or thrust up in a Kind of a round Bolt, and put into a Clip, as we call it; which being screwed down as hard as possible, presses the Web in all Directions, so as to squeeze and crumple it all together, and crease it and seam it in all Parts excessively. It is no wonder that Linens so strangely misused should look very ill when opened; but Care is taken to prevent that, as long as possible; for when they come out of the Clip, where they are made very hard, they are strait tied up with three Strings, one of which is put close to the Crisp, and another to the Selvage, and drawn so hard as to seem designed to prevent all Attempts to look into the inner Folds.

On the contrary, the Flat Way is a very easy natural Method of making up Linens, either for Sale or Carriage. After the Piece is folded up in an easy Manner, every Fold lying flat upon another, it is put into a Press, which makes little Alteration in the Form of it, only settles it in the Folds, and presses them closer. It is thought too, that this flat Pressing saves a considerable Part of our Beetling, which is a severe and expensive Operation: But however this be, it



is certain the Cloth opens to great Advantage, the Form easy and natural, the Threads straight and regular, and the Folds quite free from Creases, or being in any Degree distorted or crumpled, but lie flat and smooth like the Leaves of a Book. The Comparison, therefore, of Foreign Linens to Ours, in the opening, must give Them a high Advantage against Us, and the very disadvantageous Manner Ours appear in, must create a great Prejudice against them.

But besides this, Round Linens don't pack or Box well; and if that be not carefully done, and by People experienced in doing it, they are apt, from their Form, to tumble and rub against each other; and being generally hard, and tied with clumsy Strings, knotted, they are liable in such Cases to receive great Damage. Besides this Inconvenience, they take up much more Room than Flat Linens, as from their circular Form there are large Spaces between the Pieces, unfilled, so that they take larger Boxes, and therefore the Expence on them runs higher both in Freight and Carriage. This holds good in all Cases; but where Duties are payable in Proportion to the Measure or Bulk of the Stowage, the Round Way is peculiarly improper, and the making the Linens Flat, and pressing them, in such Cases, causes a considerable Saving.

And as it is to be hoped that our Linen Trade will soon be opened in some considerable Degree to Spain and Portugal, the People of which Places, where the Duties are laid on in Proportion to the Measure, will buy none at all of our Round made up Linens;—It is therefore become more our Duty than formerly, to think of laying aside this absurd Method we have fallen upon, and not only suit our Linens to our own particular Convenience, but adapt them also to the general Demand.

But there is another Reason greater than any yet offered, for our preferring the Flat Way, which is this; that there is an easy Method in this Way, of making the inside Folds of every Piece fairly appear, without the Trouble of untying, or any other Kind of Inconvenience: And as we have procured the Brown Linens to be exposed in Folds, which has already had such happy Effects, it will be equally prudent, as well as just and reasonable, to carry the Reformation throughout, and make it extend also to the White. The Merchant or Buyer could in this Way, without any more Trouble than at present, either to himself, the Factor, or the Seller, have a fair View of the Folds that are now entirely hidden from him, and by that Means would not be obliged to rest his Judgment altogether upon the Lap-yard. This would compleat the great Business of wholly setting aside fine Lap-yards, and of making our Linens equally fine and good throughout; as it would then be equally the Draper's Interest, and consequently, his Care, to have the inside Folds good, as well as the outside Lap. This, therefore, would make the Draper in the Brown Markets, look out for and encourage, fair, even, and good Linens; and the Manufacturer finding this, would be equally careful

careful to encourage good and even Yarn, of which alone such Linens can be made, and to reject and discourage, whatever was found to be bad, knotty or uneven: The poor Weaver would get the Benefit of this, which at present he stands greatly in need of: And indeed the Influence would, from one to another, operate upon all Classes of People concerned in the Trade; and could not in general fail, in Conjunction with the Regulations of the same Kind already made, of bringing about a considerable Improvement in the original Manufacture of our Linens.

Thus it appears, that the Flat Way of Lapping has every Advantage that can be imagined, against Ours.—The Linens look better, pack better, and open better; they are not abused, nor liable to Damage; they save Expence in Carriage, Freight and Duties; they are suited to the Demand of every Market.

WHY then, it may be asked, is not this Method more generally fallen into?—The Reasons are obvious on some Accounts; on others, they deserve to be briefly examined. Some People do not like by any Means to change their old Customs, however foolish or hurtful; and some would not like to expose the Folds of their Linens, but would rather close them up more securely, if possible, than at present. Others think it would be inconvenient to change their present Method of Lapping, and expensive to get Presses: These last however found their Opinion on a Mistake; for it will by no Means be necessary that all People should get Presses: The Machines we now use, called Clips, may with Ease be made to press Linens in the Flat, as well as in the Present Way; nor will it require the half of the Art to prepare them for the Flat Way, that is now requisite to make them up properly for the Round. Besides, it is asserted that Clips when so altered, will press Linens better than a common or ordinary Press; and though this need not hinder those who want to arrive at the higher Degrees of Perfection, to get the better Kind of Presses, yet it may be asserted that even the best Presses will not so far exceed the Flat Clips, as the best Manner of Lapping at present exceeds the common Manner, or as the few Artists who are dexterous at this Business, excel the imperfect and slovenly Manner, in which it is at present generally executed. In short, it will not require so much Art to make up Linens in the Way proposed, as in the Present Way; and therefore our Linens in general would be better, and more easily made up; besides all the greater Advantages arising from the Proposed Method.

It has been objected, that the Buyers in general have not sufficiently encouraged the few Attempts that have been made in the Flat Way: But it should be considered, that those Attempts were not agreeable to the Method here proposed, as the Folds were not exposed, but the Lap only. Besides, whilst the Attempts are few, they can never be encouraged; nor indeed till the Method becomes general,—perhaps universal:



universal: For whoever has a Demand or Order for Irish, or any other Linens, either in the wholesale Way, or for Exportation, they always expect to find such Linens in that particular Form in which they are known to be generally made up. It is for this Reason that Individuals who attempt Better Methods will (like the Beginners of almost every good Thing) at first be too liable to suffer by it; so that it will always be found necessary to make use of some extraordinary Means, to make even the Best Method become general, before it can in any reasonable Time be expected to prevail against the Old.

Indeed the Practice of Lapping in the Flat Way, even without the Advantage of exposing the inside Folds, seems to be in some Degree prevailing at present; tho' it has been attempted but by a Few: All of these have had to struggle with Inconveniencies at first, and Those of them who have had the Patience to persevere till they found Customers, who became sensible of the Excellency of their Method, have since had a good Trade; so that the Few amongst us who have fallen into that Method, generally have Orders from their Customers for their Linens, at their own Price: But most of Those who have endeavoured to introduce this Method, have been discouraged at the very first; and as this must generally be the Case, the Success of it in this Way must be very slow, and attended at first with considerable Loss and Disappointment to the publick-spirited Individuals who may attempt it.

The Objections upon the whole, against the Flat Way, are either frivolous, ill grounded, or ill intended;—the Advantages which would arise from it, great, important, and lasting; and the Inconveniencies which would follow the Change, absolutely inconsiderable: The Worst that can be supposed is, only the making up again of all or most of the round Linens, which would remain unfold at the End of the Year at the Markets of London, Dublin, &c. in the proposed Flat Way; which, supposing it should be done to 100,000 Pieces, the whole Expence upon all concern'd, would amount only to but a few hundred Pounds. This is supposing that the Proprietors of such Linens might possibly think it necessary to make them uniform with the new-made up Linens, which would be sent to Market the ensuing Year in the Flat Way; but indeed there would be few or none who would think any such Matter necessary.

That the proposed Alteration therefore, from all the Reasons beforementioned, will certainly be made, is humbly supposed. And in Regard to the Means necessary to be used, to bring about this great Change—It is humbly imagined they must be one or other of the following:

Either, in the First Place, that the Dealers should be allured into it by offering Premiums, such as Presses, &c. to those who should first comply, or a Sum of Money in Bounties, upon the first Linens exported in the proposed Manner:—

Or,

Or, Secondly, That an Act of Parliament should be made, forbidding for a short Time any Linen to be exported in any other Form than that prescribed: Or at least that an Order of the Linen-Board should be issued, commanding the Lappers for some Time to lap in no Other than the Manner directed.

The First would be a very agreeable Way to some, of doing the Business; but it is feared, by Others, it would not be an effectual one; and would only breed Confusion in the Trade, which might for some considerable Time, and before the new Practice finally prevailed, be very detrimental, either to Those who dealt in the Flat, or in the Round made-up Linens, and perhaps at different Times, and on different Occasions, to Both. The People of this last Opinion, therefore, think the Second the only Method; both because it would be an Effectual One, and because it would, by that Means, be done all at once, and therefore liable to no sort of Confusion or Inconvenience. But it is objected, that this would be hard, to cause us all to make up our Linens in a Way we have not been used to; and why should not these Things be left free?—The Answer is;—A silly Attachment to evil Customs is not only ridiculous in All Cases; but in Some, as in the Present, very pernicious and hurtful; and therefore it must be Kindness to oblige People to quit such bad Customs, and do Good to themselves and the Publick: And with Regard to the Hardship, complained of, of making positive Laws in such Things, and the Question, Why should not People in such Matters be left free? The Answer is; For the same Reasons that the People of this Country are not allowed any longer to destroy the Roads by drawing with narrow Wheels; or, that formerly it was found necessary to make an Act of Parliament to put a Stop to another Wild Custom, long and obstinately adhered to, of ploughing Horses by the Tail.

These Customs may seem more silly and ridiculous at this Time, than the present Method of bundling and tying up our Linens; but they are certainly less hurtful--And therefore if our Legislators should in their Wisdom think it necessary to make a Law against this evil Custom, it will become us, instead of making Objections against being deprived of the Liberty of hurting ourselves, humbly to thank them for their Care in making such necessary Laws,—and chearfully and unanimously to obey them.







IT is thought proper, in this Edition, to add the following MEMORIALS of the MERCHANTS of LONDON, BRISTOL and LIVERPOOL, to the LINEN-BOARD of IRELAND, with Regard to the foregoing PAPERS, and the late Regulations of the Board.

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*The Memorial of the Merchants of LONDON.*

THE Materials for a Linen Bill, drawn up by a Number of Linen Drapers in and about LISBURN, having been communicated to us by Messrs. Henry Betty and John Williamson, we approve of the same, so far as we can judge, and are concerned.

We particularly approve of the Examining and Sealing of Brown Linens, as a proper and necessary Means to prevent Faults, Frauds, and Damages, in the Original of the Manufacture.

We approve also of the Clauses for preventing Damages in Bleaching, and Frauds in Lappers, both with regard to short Measure and conceal'd Damages; and also, for preventing the making up and exporting damaged and unsealed Linens, as if they were Sound and Merchantable.

We think the punctual Execution of the above Laws absolutely necessary to the Welfare, if not to the very Being, of the Manufacture; and that the Neglect of them any longer may endanger the general Credit of the Irish Linen Trade, both here and in the Markets abroad; and more especially at the present Time, when foreign Linens are to come in Competition with ours.

E e

We



We cannot but approve of the uncommon Efforts lately used by some of the People to Re-form and Improve the Manufacture; and we take the Liberty of recommending it to the Linen Board, to encourage the Spirit that has been exerted on that Occasion, and to strengthen the Hands of those who have endeavoured to set aside Frauds and Abuses, and to carry the Laws into Execution.

We do not think it necessary that all Linens above 14 Hundreds should be full 36 Inches wide, tho' it is proper that many of them should be so; but a lesser Breadth will oftentimes answer many Peoples Uses, and brings the Linen cheaper to Market: We approve of stamping the Breadth in Inches on the Ends; and of lapping the Linens flat rather than round, and with the Folds opening in the Middle, provided the Rule be made General.

Done at a Meeting of the Importing LINEN MERCHANTS and FACTORS: LONDON, 13 April, 1763.

WAKEFIELD, WILLET AND PRATT,

NASH, EDDOWES, MARSHALL, AND PETRIE,

ALLEN AND MARLAR,

J. BARTON, SAM. AND WM. SMITH,

JOHNSTON, IRWIN, AND BOWSTEAD,

HENRY BOYD,

MARK RIDGEWAY,

BELINGHAM MAULEVERER,

WILLIAM ALEXANDER,

ADAM JACKSON, AND COMP.

BOETEPEUK, SCHUMACHER, AND COMP.

THOMAS HODGSON,

DAVID HARVEY,

PRESTON AND FLETCHER,

DAVID KER, AND COMP.

POOLEY AND FLETCHER.

*Memorial of the BRISTOL Merchants.*

**T**HE Materials for a Linen Bill drawn up by a Number of Linen Drapers in and about LISBURN, having been presented to us by Messrs. John Williamson and Henry Bell; We concur with the Merchants of London, in approving the proposed Bill, and in declaring to the Linen Board in Ireland, the great Necessity which we apprehend there is for reforming and amending the Laws, and abolishing the Frauds and Abuses that have so long prevailed in the Trade, to the great Injury and Detriment of Ireland, as well as of the Merchants and People of England, who are Friends to, and have endeavoured to encourage, the Irish Linen Manufacture.

And we beg Leave to recommend to the particular Consideration of the Board, what is set forth in the 21, 22, and 35, 36 and 37 Pages of the REVIEW, and under the Article of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, in the MATERIALS. We have often met with the Frauds there mentioned; which, with the People's making their Linens of the Denomination of three Quarters wide, less than 25 Inches, (which prevents their being intitled to the Bounty) hinder their Exportation, and cause them to lie upon our Hands, for Years together. It is easy to perceive the Injury this must do to the Kingdom of Ireland, as well as to us; and as we cannot continue to buy such imperfect and narrow Goods when foreign Linens come in upon reasonable Terms



our Friends and fellow Subjects, in Ireland; the Infant Manufactures of which must by this Means be put to a stand, and, instead of extending the Irish Trade, it must in great Measure be put a Stop to:——But if vigorous Methods be pursued to reform the Trade, and to make every Thing perfect in its Kind, and fit for Exportation, we think it our Duty to declare, that the Effects must be highly Important, and that there is indeed no knowing in such a Case, to what an Extent the Irish Manufactures, especially of the coarser Kinds, may be carried, and the Advantages that will accrue, both to the Merchants of Britain, and the People of Ireland.

And, as real Friends to Ireland, we cannot but express our Apprehensions upon this Occasion, that if every Thing is not done immediately that can be done, to send Irish Linens to Market as perfect and as cheap as possible, the Trade must soon receive a Blow that must very sensibly affect it.

And we recommend it to the Linen Board, to discourage the sinister Attempts and Designs of all Linen Drapers, or others, who want to keep the Laws in their present State of Confusion and Uncertainty, which is equal to our having no Laws at all; or who want to oppose the wise and necessary Laws for sealing of Brown Linens, and exposing them to Sale in open Folds; or to have it still in their Power to use fine Laps, or to make up their Linens with concealed Frauds or Damages, or short Measure; or in any Way to prevent that compleat Reformation,  
that

that seems to be intended by the more publick-  
spirited and honest People concerned in the  
Trade.

Done at a Meeting of the Importing and Wholesale LINEN  
MERCHANTS, BRISTOL, April 28, 1763.

JAMES READ,  
THOMAS AND WILLIAM STRETTON,  
THOMAS HOBBS,  
ALEXANDER CAMPBELL,  
JOSEPH LANGFORD,  
JOHN PEACH,  
SLADE, BAKER, AND COMP.  
JAMES HENDERSON,  
JOHN BALL, AND COMP.  
SAMUEL DAVIES,  
MARK KNARESBROUGH,  
RALPH SHERSTON,  
WILLIAM BRITTON,  
ARTHUR Mc. CARTNEY,  
BERROW, EDWARDS, AND STEPHENS,  
J. S. AND R. SMYTH.

**Ff**

**Memorial**



*Memorial of the Merchants of Liverpool*

**W**E the Importing Linen Merchants of Liverpool, having had the Materials for a Linen Bill communicated to us by Messrs. John Williamson and Henry Bell, do heartily concur with the Merchants of London and Bristol, in approving of the proposed Bill.

It might be unnecessary to add any thing to what they have so justly said concerning this Business, were it not for the great Importance thereof, and the various Lights in which it may be considered. We cannot help observing, that had it not been for the late peculiar Circumstances of things, from the long Continuance of the War in Germany, and the flourishing State of the British Commerce, the Irish Linen Trade, from the Frauds and Abuses that have been suffered to prevail in it, must before now have suffered some very considerable Check; and we are strongly apprehensive, now that a Peace has obtain'd, some such Thing must very soon happen to it, unless the most vigorous Methods be taken to reform and improve the Manufacture.

We would desire to point out more particularly the Necessity of a Reformation in the coarser Branches of the Trade, and more especially the Drogheda's and Dowlasses; which are a kind of Linen that would be greatly and extensively in Demand, if they were but fairly and properly made; but they are grossly and shamefully fraudulent, and this to such a Degree, that it is hard to

to say whether the Folly or Dishonesty of the Manufacturers is most apparent: for as they make their Linens almost useless to the Purposes for which they are wanted, so they put it out of our Power to vend them; whereas would they make the whole of every Piece as good as they are pleased to make a part of it, the Linens would be greatly and universally useful, and bring in great Sums of Money to our fellow Subjects of Ireland, which now go to Foreigners.

We look upon the Method of selling those Linens tied up, and without Inspection and Stamping, to be the Cause of all these Frauds and Abuses; and though we hear there is an Opposition to the carrying these Laws into Execution in some Places, we cannot imagine what any honest Man, or indeed any Man not openly avowing and abetting such Frauds, can pretend to say against such wise and necessary Regulations.

We hope, therefore, the Legislature of Ireland will extend those Regulations (so obviously fair and necessary) to all the coarser Branches of the Manufacture, as well as to the fine; as indeed it is in the coarser Branches, particularly, those Frauds so generally prevail; and even in the Seven-eight-wide Linens, from the Countries where we hear the Laws are not fully obeyed, there are so many Complaints with Regard to fine Laps, bad and faulty Cloth in the inside, Folds, concealed Damages, and short Measure, that we have near as much Trouble in adjusting such Complaints, as we have in all our other Businesses:



finess; and we are persuaded, that unless such Frauds be speedily put a Stop to, the Irish Manufactures must fall into general Disrepute, and be greatly discouraged. So that we join most heartily, both on our own Accounts, and on Account of our Friends in Ireland, in approving the present Design for reforming the Laws and the Trade, and in recommending it to every Person, who has any Interest in, or Concern for, the lasting Good of Ireland, to further that Design, and to use every proper Means, to have the Laws fully and universally carried into Execution.

So much we think necessary to say in general concerning this important Business; and we also think it requisite to add the following particular Observations.

All the Drogheda Linens ought to be the full Breadth of twenty-five Inches or upwards, as well as made up in equal Goodness with the outside Lap, and sealed and examined by Seal-Masters.

And all the narrow Linen of whatsoever kind, intended for Exportation, ought to be the full Breadth of twenty-five Inches; otherwise they cannot be intitled to the Bounty.

We apprehend there is a Want of Encouragement for the Manufacturing of coarse Linens, such as three-quarters wide, in the Form of foreign Oznabourg's, which might greatly increase the Irish Trade, and prevent the German from being imported; and if there was an Encouragement given for making Hempen Oznabourg's,

it might greatly extend the Trade. If we could have the Irish Linen made up truly, and in the forms of the different species of foreign Linens, we doubt not but it would extend the Irish Linen Trade to a much greater Length than it has ever yet been carried.

It has often happened that we have been obliged to cut Linen, for our Exportation, particularly for our Plantations in America: The Length they require is generally twenty-one Yards. If a Quantity of these was encouraged, it might be of real Service, and save a deal of Trouble.

There is another Species of Linen which might prove of great Advantage to Ireland, we mean a Sort of Linen which is seven-eighths wide, in Imitation of Silesia's; it is only a low-priced Linen, but if it came on the same Terms with foreign, there might be a very considerable Export to the Coast of Guinea. These are generally made up seven Yards and three Quarters each Piece; they are to be white, and made up with dark Paper; the Callenders in Dublin know the Method of making them up.

Done at a Meeting of the Importing LINEN DRAPERS in  
LIVERPOOLE, 21 April, 1763.

BLUNDEL AND HOLLINSHEAD,  
WM. ADM.<sup>r</sup> AND ROBT. LIGHTBODY,  
KAYE AND BLACBURN,  
SAMUEL LENOX,  
ANDREW MARSHALL,  
THOMAS PARKE, AND COMP.  
WILLIAM SHAW.



ever yet been carried.

It has often happened that we have been ob-  
liged to cut Linnæa for our Exports, particu-  
larly for our Plantations in America: The quantity  
they require is generally twenty-one Yards.  
A Quantity of this was encouraged, it might be  
of real Service, and have a deal of Trouble.  
There is another Species of Linnæa which might  
prove of great Advantage to Ireland, we mean a  
Sort of Linnæa which is seven or eight wide, in  
imitation of Shells: it is only a low-pined Lin-  
næa, but it is common to the same Trees with the  
other, there might be a very considerable Export  
to the Coast of Guinea. These are generally made  
up from Yarn and some Quarters each Piece;  
they are to be white, and made up with dark  
Tart, the Gallies in Dublin make the Ma-  
chine of making them up.

**A**S an open Attack was made at the Board last *February*, against the sealing of brown Linen, by a Number of Drapers, who wanted to deceive the Trustees, and make them believe "That tho' the Sealing of brown Linen might be necessary and proper in the finer Kinds of Linen, from Fourteen Hundreds and upwards (the Kinds seldom bought by these Gentlemen) yet that it was not only unnecessary but highly improper in the coarser Kinds of Linen, from Fourteen Hundreds and Downwards (the Kinds these Gentlemen generally deal in) and upon that notoriously false and groundless Allegation, they attempted to overturn the Measuring and Sealing, with regard to all those coarser Kinds of Linen:—It was therefore thought proper in this Edition to annex the foregoing Memorials of the Merchants of *London, Bristol* and *Liverpool*, which evidently shew, contrary to what the above-mentioned Gentlemen were pleased to set forth to the Board, that there was not only the *same*, but a much *greater* Necessity for reforming the coarse Trade than the fine, and that the late Regulations were equally necessary with regard to all.

And as we are further informed that a Design is at present entertained by the above mentioned Drapers and others, of giving all the Opposition they can this Session of Parliament, both to those Regulations and to the Design that is at present on Foot for reforming the Laws; we therefore think it expedient to annex also the Declarations of the Merchants of *Dublin*, and of the Merchants from different Parts of *England*, met together at *Chester* Fair, both of which are to the same Purpose with those before quoted; not doubting but Authorities so highly respectable will have their proper Weight, in evidencing the Necessity of enforcing universally the late Regulations, and of carrying into Execution the present Design of reforming the Laws and the Trade.



# MEMORIAL

## OF THE MERCHANTS OF

# DUBLIN.

**W**E whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do think it our Duty in this public Manner to declare, that we look upon OURSELVES, and the whole KINGDOM, to be under the highest obligations to the TRUSTEES of the Linen Manufacture, for their late zealous and laudable Endeavours to reform the Trade, by carrying the Laws into Execution for SEALING OF BROWN LINENS, and exposing them to sale CRISPED and in OPEN FOLDS, and for punishing all who are guilty of Frauds in the Lapping of WHITE LINEN: And we do declare, that we will be watchful to detect, and are determined to punish, all such Frauds, particularly *fine Laps, thick Selvages, and uneven Cloth,* and also *concealed Damages,* and the lapping of two or more Pieces together, in the Form of one Piece: And we earnestly recommend it to every Person with whom we deal, to be faithful and active in carrying the above Laws into Execution, which alone can put an End to the Frauds and Abuses that have been so injurious and disgraceful both to the Trade and to the Kingdom.

DUBLIN, October 1st, 1762.

EDWARD WAKEFIELD,  
JAMES FROOD  
HOSEA COATES  
HOWARD AND KIRKMAN  
DANIEL WHITAKER

JAMES FLETCHER  
JOSEPH LANGFORD  
RICHARD LEIGH  
JOSHUA DEIGHTON  
JOHN FINLAY,  
THOMAS

THOMAS WHITE,	THOMAS JONES,
GEORGE GIBBINS,	WIL. LUFFINGHAM,
WILLIAM COTTON,	THOMAS HOLDING,
LANCEL. HALLWOOD,	JAMES SHIEL,
ROBERT YOUNG,	BRYAN M'MAHON,
THOMAS SCOTT,	HENRY OBRIEN,
PETER SMITH,	JOHN STACPOLE,
BENJAMIN SMITH,	NICHOLAS GERNON,
WALKER AND VICKERS,	D. M'DONOGH,
DANIEL DICKINSON,	JAMES KELLY,
COMERFORD AND OBRIEN,	ROBERT WALSH,
W. MONTGOMERY, AND	THOMAS EGAN,
Comp.	JOHN BEGG,
HUGH HAMILL,	CHRIST. WELDON,
WILLIAM ALEXANDER,	HENRY BEVIN,
ROBERT MAXWELL,	THOMAS KING,
JAMES GIVEN,	THO. NICHOLSON,
JAMES WHITE,	ALEX. M'DONNEL,
R. PETTIGREW,	CHARLES BUTLER,
SAMUEL DICK,	MICHAEL GRIFFIN,
ALEXANDER BIRNIE,	GEO. CUNNINGHAM,
THOMAS WARREN,	ALEXANDER WOODS,
ANTHONY GRAYSON,	FRANCIS SANDYS,
GEORGE CARLETON,	OLIVER PLUNKET,
THOMAS READ,	JAS. AND HUGH LANG,
ROB. MONTGOMERY,	MARK KNARESBOROUGH,
JOSEPH FLETCHER,	GEORGE HOLMES,
MONT. USHER,	THOMAS IEUERS,
JOHN HAWKINS,	W. AND BEN. ALLOWAY.



*Memorial of the Merchants of the different Parts of ENGLAND, met together at CHESTER-FAIR.*

**W**E the undernamed Persons, Dealers in Irish Linen, met together, from different Parts of England, at CHESTER FAIR, do declare our high Satisfaction at the Measures which have of late been taken to reform the Irish Linen Manufacture.

We have no doubt but those wise Measures, if steadily pursued, will answer the good Purposes for which they were intended: but as we hear that those People who have hitherto carried on the Frauds, will endeavour to prevent the Reformation that is intended; we do hereby declare that we will not, knowingly, buy any Linens which are sealed by, or are the Property of any such Persons; that is, any who shall appear to be Enemies to the late wise Regulations of the Linen Board of Ireland, or who shall oppose the present Design of reforming the Laws; which, if it does not take Effect, we are resolved that we will no longer give Irish Linens the Preference we have hitherto done, but endeavour to procure such other Linens as will answer the Demands of our Trade, without those daily Complaints and Drawbacks to which we have been liable, from the Fraudulent make up of too many of the Irish Linens.

We approve of the Extract from the present Linen Laws, with Alterations and Additions, which has been offered by the People as Materials for a Linen Bill; particularly what is therein offered to set aside Frauds, Damages and short Measure, and the round concealed Method of Lapping; and we take the Liberty, as Dealers in, and Friends to the Irish Linen Trade,

Trade, to recommend the same to the countenance of the Board and of the ensuing Parliament.

CHESTER, 10th of October 1763.

VIN. EDWARDS,	W. B. COLLIS,
WM. PHILLIPS,	WM. WARD,
DAVID STOTHARD,	ROB. MILLER,
GRIFFIN LEWIS,	ISAAC BADGER,
JOS. NORTH,	PETER REYNOLDS,
THO. LLOYD,	SAM. WILSON,
JA. OLIVER,	JOS. BRADLEY,
EDW. BALL,	JOHN LANE,
COLBECK SHARP,	W. SOUTHWELL,
JOHN KENT,	RICH. WARD,
CHA. WATKINS,	ROB. GRAYSON,
JOHN RUSHWORTH,	MAT. REID,
WM. WATSON,	JAMES REYNOLDS,
JOHN MYERS,	WIL. SYMONS,
THO. FOWLER,	EDW. BURLTON,
VENOUR AND CLARKE,	DAVIES HUNT,
RICH. COLLEY,	WM. WALDRON,
A. AND F. GUINNISS,	LUKE COTES,
GRAFTON WILKS,	JOHN SMITH,
NICH. WEBB,	THO. ARROWSMITH,
JAMES MASON, JUN.	JOHN CARRUTHERS,
JAMES MASON, SEN.	JER. MARSHALL,
SAM. WALL,	WM. ILES.

N. B. There is a pressing Necessity for expediting this Business, and publishing what is done as early as possible, that the Merchants may know what they have to depend upon, before they send out their Orders for the ensuing Year's Trade.

WE



WE whose Names are hereunto subscribed, Linen Merchants of different Parts of England, looking upon the Affair above-mentioned, to be of the utmost Consequence both to the Trade of this Kingdom and the Good and Welfare of Ireland; do heartily join with the above-mentioned Merchants in what they declare concerning the same.

We are of Opinion that the Irish Linen Manufacture, if fairly and properly conducted, will soon become a greater Object of our Attention, and a larger Article in our British Commerce, than has been hitherto foreseen or imagined. We think there is good Reason to believe and hope, that the just and proper Measures that are now taking, will remove all Frauds that have obtained in the Manufacture, particularly those of fine Laps and thick Selvages, which had so shamefully prevailed in the coarser Kinds of Linen, that we have often seen the selvaged Part of the out-side Lap, more than double the Value of some Parts of the same Piece concealed in the inside hidden Folds.

We cannot but think that the People who oppose the Laws, and Orders of the Board for sealing of Linens when brown, and exposing them to Sale open, do it from the basest and most unworthy Views. And we take the Liberty of recommending it to every honest Man whose Linens we buy, or who will expect us for the future to buy their Linens, to be aiding and assisting in carrying the Laws and the Orders of the Board into due Execution, and not only to conform to, and obey the Laws themselves, but to endeavour also to make others do the same; and if any appears to have the Insolence still to persist in their base and shameful Practices, in open or secret Opposition to the Laws, in that Case we cannot but wish that the Names of such should be published, that we might have

have an Opportunity of shewing our just Resentment against them. And we take the Liberty of recommending it to the Linen-Board of Ireland, not to intrust any such Men any longer with white Seals, as it will be next to impossible to prevent their continuing Frauds, which are equally ruinous to the Trade, and disgraceful to the Kingdom.

Dated this 15th of October 1763.

FREEMAN AND HARKNESS,	CHAR. WYATT,
ROB. WATERMAN,	FRAN. GOODALL,
WM. WYATT,	JOHN FOSS,
FRAN. ZOUCHE,	JOS. HAND,
GEO. ORMROD,	JAMES ROBINSON,
JEFF. BREWER,	WILL. PHILLIPS,
JAMES TOPPER,	RICH. WAKEFORD,
JOHN JOHNSON,	WILL. GREENWOOLLERS,
MYLES BOURNE,	WILL. JAMESON,
JOHN STEVENSON,	WILL. CURRIE,
SAM. GOODIER,	WM. WETHERALL,
JOHN CLAYTON,	BENJ. MOLINEUX,
NEW. IKIN,	PAT. TENNANT,
JAM. JAMESON,	SAM. EATON,
ELIS. HEYDON,	SAM. LOWE,
RICH. FELL,	CORBETT AND BROWN.



have an opportunity of viewing the  
 same. And we take the liberty of  
 presenting to the I. R. Society of London  
 an album of the same with this letter  
 to present their collection  
 to the Society of the I. R. Society.

Done this 15th of October 1851

JAMES HARRISON, CHAIRMAN  
 ROBERT WATERMAN, SECRETARY  
 JOHN WYATT, JAMES TOFFER, JOHN JOHNSON, MYLES BOURNE, JOHN STEVENSON, SAMUEL GOODWIN, JOHN CLAYTON, NEWBY, JAMES JAMISON, ELIZABETH HEYDON, NICHOL FELL,

